

Daily Report

East Asia

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Daily Report East Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Government Wary of Possible U.S. Sanctions

OW0304113695 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the United States has harshly criticized Japan's closed market in its "1995 Report on Foreign Trade Barriers," the Japanese Government coolly responded to the criticism, saying "The content of the report fall within the bounds of our expectations." Japan had predicted the U.S. complaint from its hardline attitude at the bilateral economic framework talks.

However, Japan has expressed its strong concern over possibe U.S. sanctions against Japanese auto replacement parts. Showing strong discontent with the slow progress of Japan-U.S. talks on automobiles and auto parts, the United States has hinted at the possibility that, depending on the progress, it will move up the deadline for imposing sanctions against Japanese auto replacement parts under the Super 301 provision of the U.S. Omnibus Trade Act (on presidential sanctions against unfair trade practices).

In December last year, Japan agreed to reopen talks on the condition that it could refuse talks if the United States threatens unilateral sanctions against Japan, such as the Super 301 provision. Therefore, the Japanese Government has become increasingly distrustful of the U.S. recent attitude. In its annual report, the United States again strongly demanded that Japanese automakers should increase their self-imposed procurement quotas for foreign-made auto parts. However, Japan clearly showed its negative stance toward the U.S. request. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry responded negatively to the U.S. annual report, saying, "It is certain that we will have a harder time at the bilateral consultations."

Regarding the fact that the U.S. Government makes the new demand of "opening up the racehorse market" in its report, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries [MAFF] said that "the question of opening the race horse market has been settled." It pointed out the fact that the Japan Racing Association (JRA) is currently implementing a plan to ease the restriction on the entry in races, and that the MAFF plans to review the plan in 1996. At the same time, the forestry ministry has reacted to a U.S. request concerning forest products, saying "Japan cannot lower tariffs on them further," because it plans to lower tariffs step by step by 1999, in line with the accords reached during the GATT's Uruguay Round of talks.

U.S. Stance Criticized

OW0304082395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO— Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) accused the United States on Monday [3 April] of being inconsistent in making complaints about foreign trade barriers.

"Washington's point of view in compiling an annual trade report is inconsistent," Tomio Tsutsumi, vice international trade and industry minister, told a news conference.

Tsutsumi was referring to a trade report prepared by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative on Friday, which listed 45 nations and trade blocs which Washington regards as maintaining trade barriers against U.S. goods and services.

The report devoted far more space to Japan than to other nations.

"The U.S. raised questions only in terms of trade shares or current account surplus to assess if a particular sector of countries is unfair," Tsutsumi said.

Japan, on the other hand, he said, has kept using "a solid and consistent measurement" of trade practices in line with international trade rules, in preparing its annual unfair trade report, this year's version of which was released last Thursday.

MITI Reacts to USTR Report on Trade Barriers

OW0204145495 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japanese Government, in response to the "1995 Report on Foreign Trade Barriers" released by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] on 31 March, has retorted: "Efforts are being made everyday to improve on points that need to be corrected" (as stated by a Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] official). The USTR, in its report, has again criticized Japan as the "world's most unfair" trading partner.

Regarding trade sanctions under the Super 301 provision of the U.S. 1988 Omnibus Trade Act (under which trade sanctions would be applied to unfair trade partners), which was implied in the USTR report, the Japanese Government plans "to counter unilateral measures that a certain country decides to implement for its own convenience by filing complaints with the World Trade Organization (WTO)" (as stated by the same MITI official). In the backdrop of its expectations that the WTO has more arbitrating authority than GATT, the Japanese Government is clearly indicating that it does not intend to succumb to "pressure."

On 30 March, MITI released its "1995 Report on Unfair Trade" under the name of its Industrial Structure Council. In anticipation of the USTR report, MITI made the first move by saying that among Japan's major trade partners, "unfair trade systems and measures are most notable" in the United States. What is behind Japan's "hardline stance," comparable in degree to that which the United States is taking, is its expectations regarding

the WTO, which was established in January. The WTO's capacity in settling disputes has been strengthened in comparison to GATT's.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] has reacted nonchalantly, saying: "The USTR report is harsh but falls within the bounds of our expectations. We do not wish to be influenced by this" (as stated by a MOFA official). However, a senior MITI official affirmed: "We are determined, in all justice, to oppose the idea of "steamrolling," which deviates from trade principles and rules the world follows."

Editorial on U.S. Stance

OW0104144995 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Editorial: "Doubts Raised About U.S. Stand on Automobiles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government is getting tough with Japan at negotiations for opening the Japanese automobile and auto parts market.

The U.S. Government, which conducted a survey of automobile replacement parts in Japan last September in connection with the auto and auto parts negotiations, has notified the Japanese Government of its plan to move the deadline for imposing sanctions against Japan under the Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act from the end of September to early May.

The U.S. Government is also expressing strong discontent over Japan's offer to increase the number of car dealers selling foreign automobiles and the purchases of American-made auto parts by Japanese automakers. This attitude on the part of the U.S. Government, which has recklessly attacked Japan, will only fuel anti-American feelings among the Japanese people.

During the auto and auto parts negotiations, Japanese negotiators have insisted that both sides only negotiate matters concerning the autos and auto parts within government control, and rejected discussions on other matters, claiming that discussing such matters constitutes an intervention in private business. While accepting the claim, American negotiators have asked the Japanese Government to urge Japanese car dealers to sell more American-built automobiles in Japan with the help and influence of Japanese automakers. This request runs counter to the U.S. Government's demand for relaxing Japanese regulations.

In 1992, each Japanese automaker announced its voluntary plan to purchase American-made auto parts for the production of automobiles both in the United States and Japan. The United States, interpreting the plans as commitments, has demanded that Japanese automakers put forth their new plans to increase their purchase of American-made auto parts.

However, the Japanese Government has rejected the demand, saying it will not discuss it during the negotiations because it is out of government control. American negotiators have no choice but to accept the rejection. Walter Mondale, U.S. ambassador to Tokyo, is meeting with individual Japanese automakers to press them to increase their purchase of American-made auto parts. He is going too far in all respects.

The 1995 report on unfair trade released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, in its appendix entitled "On Demand by Foreign Government for the Purchase of Foreign Goods by Japanese Enterprises," points out that the direct request by foreign governments for the purchase of foreign goods by Japanese enterprises constitutes a violation of international trade rules laid down by an accord for establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The report analyzes the trade policy of each nation toward Japan on the basis of international trade rules. The U.S. Government should discard its highhanded attitude and take one that is compatible with international trade rules.

During negotiations on replacement auto parts, American negotiators have demanded a bold relaxation of Japan's certification system regulations for auto repair shops, claiming that the system has impeded Japan's imports of American-made replacement auto parts. A survey conducted by the Fair Trade Commission has found no unfair trade practices. The auto repair industry has expressed its willingness to use American-made replacement auto parts if they are cheap and of good quality, and if the American auto parts makers can meet the delivery dates.

It is said that a majority of American auto and auto parts makers have no discontent with the present bilateral trade in autos and auto parts. Nonetheless, the U.S. Government is taking a tough stance with Japan. Its attitude will only tangle bilateral trade issues.

Tokyo Said Ready To File Complaint With WTO OW0104040595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—A Japanese trade official said Saturday [1 April] the Japanese Government will not hesitate to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) if the United States unilaterally imposes sanctions against Japan on pending bilateral trade issues.

The official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry's (MITI) International Trade Policy Bureau was commenting on a report issued by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on Friday.

The report says Japan still has numerous trade barriers for foreigners to enter particularly in the auto and auto parts fields.

The Japanese trade official, who declined to be named, said, "the report shows the U.S. is discussing freely based only on their own rules."

The USTR report also says the U.S. Government is strongly dissatisfied with the absence of progress in the area of autos and auto parts—the sole unresolved area among the three priority sectors in the Japan-U.S. framework trade negotiations.

The official said Japan is ready to lodge a complaint with the WTO if the U.S. implements one-sided steps such as invoking the super 301 measure of a 1974 trade act.

MITI released a report Thursday, timed to coincide with the USTR report. The MITI report stressed the importance of resolving issues concerning world trade practices under the rules of the WTO which was created in January as a successor to the general agreement on tariffs and trade.

Japan will urge the U.S. to reaffirm the principle of settling issues under WTO rules at framework trade talks, the trade official said.

Washington has begun a section 301 probe into Japan's trade practice in the replacement auto parts field.

MITI To Revise Large Store Law by FY99

OW3003055095 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 24 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] has decided to revise the Large-Scale Retail Store Law by FY99. The law restricts the establishment of large retailers. The plan to review the law will be included in the government's "five-year deregulation promotion program" to be formulated by the end of March. Complying with requests from smaller retailers, up until now MITI has not specified when it will revise the law. However, intensifying calls from foreign countries for deregulation made the ministry decide to go beyond anything said in the recent interim report on deregulation.

In the interim report released on 10 March, MITI said: "Taking into account changes in the environment surrounding the distribution sector, the Large-Scale Retail Store Law will be reviewed from mid-term viewpoints." However, the United States and Keidanren [Japan Federation of Economic Organizations] expressed strong dissatisfaction with the ambiguous expression of "from mid-term viewpoints."

Last May, MITI allowed large retailers to extend their business hours as a measure to ease controls on them. Despite this, the United States and the European Union (EU) urged Tokyo to consider revising the Large-Scale Retail Store Law, including the abolition of the law. Yielding to such a foreign demand, MITI decided to specify the timing of the review.

Defense Agency To Set Up BMDR Office

OW3103150495 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has been calling on Japan to join in the development of the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) project. To do a research study of the project, the Defense Agency [DA] will set up the "Office for Ballistic Missile Defense Research" [BMDR] on 1 April, and it has been informally decided to appoint DA Councillor Katsuei Hirasawa as director of the new office. The research office will be composed of expert officials specializing in missile defense to be selected from DA's internal bureaus; staff offices of Ground, Maritime and Air Self-Defense Forces; and its Central Technological Research Office. Hereafter, the new offfice will start full-scale research on the technological possibility of promoting the TMD project, and collect and provide concerned materials to the government in making its final decision on Japan's joining in the TMD's development in cooperation with the United States.

The TMD concept that the United States advocates is to catch approaching ballistic missiles with such devices as reconnaissance satellites and then shoot them down with interceptor missiles. At present, the Japanese Government has not made its final decision on whether to join in the development as requested by the U.S. Government. Last September, however, an accord was reached with the U.S. Government on starting a joint research project to collect materials that will be necessary for making a policy decision on the participation in the joint development. Moreover, expenses for research study amounting to 20 million yen have been included in the fiscal 1995 budget.

At the new research office, efforts will be made to engage in research on and analysis of such issues as: (1) the danger posed by ballistic missiles existing in areas close to Japan such as those possessed by the DPRK (North Korea); (2) what ballistic missile defense system Japan will need; and (3) the technical feasibility of the TMD project as well as relations between its costs and effects. Hopefully, the office will arrive at its conclusion in two or three years.

Reportedly, the total costs for developing the TMD project may exceed 200 billion yen. And if Japan should officially decide to participate in the project, it will be this century's final yet gigantic project for the domestic defense industry. Therefore, in addition to watching the government's future moves closely, defense industrial circles are already trying to verify the TMD-related technology before the government.

Editorial on Conventional Weapons Exports

OW0304064395 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Let Us Put a Brake on Conventional Weapons Exports"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The end of the Cold War opened the way for nuclear disarmament. Sincere efforts have been made to regulate biological and chemical weapons as well.

But, there still remains a huge void within the framework of global arms control and disarmament—in the area of controlling conventional weapons.

About 75 percent of approximately 1 trillion dollars spent worldwide on arms procurement per year is appropriated for the purchase of conventional weapons. The weapons industry is the world's second largest manufacturing industry in terms of export amount.

The supply of large-scale, sophisticated weapons has been monopolized—80 percent of arms are exported from the United States, Russia, France, Britain, and China, which are nuclear states and permanent members of the UN Security Council (known as the P-5). Seeing this, we say that putting a stop to the international arms trade is something we must do immediately.

An international symposium held in Tokyo last week to discuss the "transfer of conventional weapons" gave us an important hint on how to tackle the issue.

First, we should point out that not every nation enjoys the benefits brought about by the end of the Cold War.

Last year's arms export amount dropped to one-third of that of the mid-1980's during the Cold War era. A main reason for this drop is the end of confrontation between the United States and the USSR, which led to a fall in weapons exports to the Middle East and Africa, eventually promoting disarmament in Europe.

On the other hand, Asian nations, where dynamic economic development has been continued, have increased their share in the international weapons market. In the mid-1980's, their imports only accounted for 10 percent of global import amounts. But this has now jumped to over 30 percent. Exports also exceed 7 percent as China has expanded its arms exports.

Southeast Asian nations in particular are the target of arms exports. To cope with a drastic fall in domestic procurement, the weapons industries in the United States and Russia are now eagerly trying to sell products to Asian nations picking up economic strength. The situation is the same with European nations. For instance, Germany sold former East German-owned corvettes and minesweepers to Indonesia. As seen here, disarmament in Europe is actually promoting the military buildup in Asia.

Such changes turned the arms trade from a seller's to a buyer's market. Facing tough competition, sellers are vigorously trying to promote their business through price cuts and sales of advanced products. Russia in particular is desperate to sell its fighters, submarines, tanks, and antiaircraft missiles in order to obtain foreign currency and maintain the nation's military industry.

There is a big obstacle to the regulation of the arms trade as it is promoted by the nations' ego trip. However, Japan, which does not engage in arms exports, should take the initiative in stopping it.

One way to go is to strengthen the UN arms trade register system that was started in 1992. The system is designed to put a brake on international arms trade by ensuring transparency in the transfer of weapons. However, light firearms such as machine guns, mines, and rifles, are not required to be registered under this system.

Many people have been killed by light firearms in regional disputes in the former Yugoslavia and other areas. It will be difficult to settle or prevent regional disputes unless we strengthen control of conventional weapons including light firearms.

The responsibility placed on the P-5 for enhancing the system of controlling conventional weapons is great. Should Japan, the biggest provider of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), by forming a league with developing nations and nonaligned nations, demand the P-5 regulate the trade of conventional weapons?

At the same time, we hope Japan will promote dialogue with Asian nations to map out a blueprint for arms control and confidence-building in the Asia-Pacific region in the future.

Kono Expected To Address NPT Conference

OW0204065695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 2 KYODO—Foreign Minister Yohei Kono will call for an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in his address expected around April 18 at a New York conference on the treaty. Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday [2 April].

The speech at the conference, opening April 17 to review the treaty expiring this year, will "aim at spurring momentum toward agreement on an indefinite extension," a senior ministry official said.

While in New York, Kono will hold separate meetings with his counterparts from other countries in an attempt to persuade as many signatories as possible to vote for the treaty's indefinite extension, the sources said.

The treaty commits nonnuclear states to never acquiring or producing nuclear weapons but permits the existing declared nuclear powers—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—to possess them.

The sources said that of the 175 countries which are parties to the treaty, most nonaligned nations oppose indefinite extension or are cautious toward it, while no more than 70 countries have clearly indicated support for the concept.

But an official in the ministry's division responsible for disarmament and arms control said many nonaligned countries are likely to change their positions during the conference, scheduled to continue till May 12.

The official said the ministry feels Kono could have considerable impact in converting many of these signatories to the view that the treaty should be indefinitely extended if he makes a keynote speech outlining Japan's stand at the outset of the conference.

The sources said Kono will use his speech to evaluate the treaty's role in preventing nuclear proliferation in the 25 years since it came into force and stress that indefinite extension is vital to ensure continued nonproliferation and disarmament.

In separate meetings with his foreign counterparts, Kono will argue that a fixed date of expiry would weaken the treaty's effectiveness, they said.

It is not clear which representatives Kono will personally meet with in New York, but the ministry is studying the possibility of meetings with key members of the 111nation non-aligned movement, currently chaired by Indonesia.

Japan and the U.S. are among those supporting an unlimited extension of the treaty, which needs a simple majority, or 88, of its 175 signatories to approve its extension before it can be renewed.

MOF To Lift Restriction on Debentures

OW3103153195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO— The Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced Friday [31 March] the abolition of the standards on corporations eligible for issuing debentures, with effect from next Jan. 1.

The lifting of the restrictions is included in the deregulation program announced earlier in the day by the government.

Under the measure, the corporations' issue of debentures will be liberalized and serve to diversify corporations' ways of raising funds, officials said.

For investor protection, the ministry will make it mandatory for corporations issuing bonds to enter their own ratings, important management information and dividends in their annual securities reports.

Commenting on the deregulation move, the Japan Bond Research Institute said corporate grading will play an important role as information for investors, although it has so far served as a hurdle which corporations planning to issue debentures have to clear.

FTC To Strengthen Deregulation Program

OW3103140495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO— The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) will strengthen its organization to promote fair competition under the government's five-year economic deregulation program, FTC officials said Friday [31 March].

The deregulation program was announced earlier Friday.

As part of the reorganization, the FTC in April will establish departments to gather information on price cartels and other forms of unfair trade practices, to investigate import restriction cartels and barriers to parallel imports, and to coordinate with the government to prevent bid-rigging, the officials said.

The FTC will also compile guidelines in April for preventing corporate violations of the Antimonopoly Law and distribute them to companies, the officials said.

In addition, the FTC will publish a report in July on the buying and selling of telecommunications equipment and machine tools between companies, governmentcontrolled marketing of liquors, tobacco and rice, and restrictions under the large-scale retail stores law, the officials said.

FTC Outlines New Antimonopoly Guidelines

OW0304085295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) on Monday [3 April] released a draft of a revised guideline on antimonopoly violations by business organizations that includes criteria in two new areas—practices intended to block new business entries and problems on public-related regulations.

The FTC said the guideline was updated for the first time since its introduction in 1979 to make it more reflective of the diversified activity of business organs in line with the rapid change in Japan's social and economic trends.

"It has become more important for the FTC to offer effective and appropriate ways of enforcing the antimonopoly law as a means to ensure fairness and free competition, at a time when the Japanese economy has been undergoing structural reforms through deregulation and market opening," said the new guideline.

The guideline itemized a set of practices by business organs and industry groups that are basically regarded as limiting new entry and operations by particular companies.

Among them are boycotting of business deals with particular companies, imposing membership requirements before entering new fields, charging excessively expensive entry fees and limiting the number of stores to be opened, it said.

"Making Japan's markets more open both to domestic and overseas businesses is an extremely important task for the country," said the guideline.

Steady Implementation of Deregulation Plan Urged

OW0304060095 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 2

[Editorial: "Hope for the Faithful Implementation of the Plan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When we read the government's five-year deregulation plan, to be approved at a cabinet meeting on 31 March, we drew a deep breath and felt how much the plan will affect the government's efforts to improve the quality of people's lives, create business opportunities, and eliminate trade friction with foreign nations.

Immediately after the inauguration of the Murayama cabinet last July, the government began formulating the plan with the aim of promoting a structural change in Japan's economy in preparation for the 21st century. As a result, the government has come up with deregulation measures for over 700 items centered on eight business areas such as housing and real estate.

However, the content of the plan is far from the goal of achieving drastic reform. What we can value is that the plan specifies that the pricing system for public utilities charges such as railway and freight charges should be reviewed—which were included in the plan at the final stage of creation—and that the possible lifting of the ban on establishing pure holding companies, which is banned by the Antimonopoly Law, should be studied.

It seems that the government's basic plan to "abolish in principle" economic regulations for the purpose of adjusting supply and demand was ignored again. The abolition of the pricing system for agricultural products and the easing of regulations regarding first-class telecommunications business was postponed. We cannot expect remarkable economic effects from the deregulation plan.

As before, such terms as "review" and "study" are used excessively in the plan. We wonder why the government could not come up with such daring measures as the abolition of the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law and the lifting of a ban on introducing a self-service system at gas stations.

The plan gives the impression that politicians lack the spirit to block conventional policies initiated by bureaucrats who are least interested in reforming. Taking into consideration the growing anxiety about the appreciation of the yen, the drop in stock prices, and the financial system, the government should have had a more definite vision in working out the plan.

Regulations that curb competition among industries lowers the vital power of society. Politicians, bureaucrats, and industries should make their own efforts in steadily carrying out the five-year plan while seeking further deregulation.

In carrying out the plan, the government should first strengthen the functions of the administrative reform committee, which is designed to monitor the progress of the plan. It is hoped that the committee will take the more positive stand of urging each ministry to advance its own deregulation plans and take further deregulation measures.

Second, the Antimonopoly Law should be more strictly applied, and the role of the Fair Trade Commission should be strengthened. The government should take strict measures to remove bid-rigging from industrial circles which impedes fair and free competition. We do not need a watchdog which does not bark.

Third, transparency of administration should be increased. The government should make efforts to "make administrative systems more open to the public" by adopting such measures as enacting a freedom-of-information law. This should also be carried out at the local-government level.

Fourth, it is recommended that people take advantage of the Administrative Procedures Law. Vague regulations or standards have to be abolished; otherwise, administration of our country will not change.

Deregulation is to transfer power of administering the nation from the bureaucrats to the people. We hope that the government will carry out the five-year plan faithfully.

Coalition Mission to DPRK Worries U.S.

OW0104155895 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government has informed the Japanese Government of its concern about the Japanese ruling parties' sending a delegation to the DPRK. This was learned on 28 March.

According to Japanese and U.S. sources concerned, the U.S. Government expressed hope that in sending a delegation to the DPRK, Japan would—1) give full consideration to the ROK, 2) respect the framework of the U.S.-DPRK agreement, and 3) make efforts to promote the South-North Korean dialogue. U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale is reported to have conveyed this U.S. position to former Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe, who is heading the delegation, last week.

The U.S. Government thinks the dispatch of the delegation itself is a matter to be decided by Japan, but the government is said to very concerned about what impact this might have on the framework of cooperation among the three countries—the United States, the ROK, and Japan.

Since the dispatch of the delegation comes shortly before 21 April, the target date for the conclusion of a contract between the Korean Pensinula Energy Development

Organization (KEDO) and the DPRK, the U.S. Government has also expressed the hope that the delegation in its meeting with the DPRK leadership would work on the DPRK to observe the U.S.-DPRK agreement and to maintain the framework of the KEDO.

Furthermore, on the issue of building light-water reactors, the U.S. Government insists on using the ROK-type light-water reactors based on the U.S.-DPRK agreement. The U.S. Government has emphatically pointed out to Japan that it cannot think of any other alternatives.

Murayama on ROK, Renewed Talks With DPRK OW3103124495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO— Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Friday [31 March] he is confident that South Korea will understand the resumption of talks between Japan and North Korea aimed at normalizing diplomatic ties.

Speaking to reporters, Murayama said the issue is "no problem" because he had talks with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam on the subject at a U.N.-sponsored summit for social development in Copenhagen earlier this month.

"It is an abnormal situation that there are no diplomatic relations 50 years after the end of the war. But I want to act in close contact with South Korea because we must consider improving South-North relations," Murayama said.

Murayama made the comments following an agreement earlier this week between the Japanese and North Korean ruling parties urging both governments to resume stalled normalization talks soon.

Japan and North Korea began normalization talks in January 1991 but they broke down in November 1992 after Pyongyang rejected Tokyo's demand for information on a missing Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents.

KEDO Deal Not Tied to Tokyo-Pyongyang Talks OW0304095695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0946 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The planned resumption of talks between Japan and North Korea will be unaffected by progress in negotiations between North Korea and an international consortium on the supply of light-water reactors to the communist country, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday [3 April].

Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito told a press conference that the planned resumption of Tokyo-Pyongyang talks, and the signing of a contract between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Development Energy Organization (KEDO) "are not directly linked."

"The timing of the resumption of bilateral talks will basically be decided through discussions between Japan and North Korea." he said.

KEDO, launched by the United States, Japan and South Korea in March, is supposed to sign a contract by April 21 on the provision of two South Korean model lightwater reactors to Pyongyang under a Washington-Pyongyang nuclear accord signed last October.

Pyongyang has so far been refusing South Korean model reactors.

Saito's remarks follow a meeting between a visiting delegation of Japan's ruling coalition parties and South Korean Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku, in which Yi voiced expectations that Tokyo conduct normalization talks with Pyongyang taking all developments into account while U.S.-North Korean talks continue on the reactor issue.

Saito said he believes Seoul "basically understands" Japan's position on the resumption of dialogue with North Korea.

Last week, Japan's ruling parties agreed with their North Korean counterpart to reopen normalization talks, which were suspended in 1992 amid disputes over the nuclear issue and a missing Japanese woman allegedly abducted by North Korean agents.

Mission Leader Interviewed on DPRK Visit

SK0204045795 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with Michio Watanabe, former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Japan and head of Japan's ruling coalition delegation to North Korea, by reporter Pae In-chun on 1 April in Tokyo]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Pae In-chun] During your visit to North Korea, both sides agreed that Japan and North Korea should resume the talks for establishing diplomatic relations at an early date. Was the dialogue with North Korea smooth?

[Watanabe] The dialogue was very difficult. It was not easy to reach an agreement. North Korea persistently stuck to the 1990 agreement among the three parties (the agreement between the North Korean Workers Party and Japan's Liberal Democratic Party and Social Democratic Party) regarding Japan's war reparations and formal apology. We continuously persuaded North Korea to agree that the governments of the two countries would discuss the issues in detail, and that both sides would play the role of matchmaker to open a channel for discussion so that both sides could reach an agreement as a result.

[Pae] You met with Premier Kang Song-san and Secretary Kim Yong-sun. Did you meet Secretary Kim Chong-il?

[Watanabe] We did not meet with anyone higher than those two officials. We also met with officials lower than them. We had not thought of meeting Kim Chong-il in the first place. When we informally inquired into such a possibility, they said he would not meet anyone during the one-year mourning period.

[Pae] Did you persuade North Korea to enter into North-South dialogue?

[Watanabe] I asked the North Korean side what it would take to talk to the ROK. I also said, informally: Israel and the Arabs as well as the United States and Vietnam, for example, have held bilateral and multilateral dialogue though they are still have hostile relations; everything has gone well as a result. Then, the North Korean side strongly resisted, explaining for 20 to 25 minutes why North-South dialogue is not possible.

[Pae] What did North Korea explain?

[Watanabe] In explaining their reason, it most strongly stressed that South Korea prevented people from visiting North Korea to express their condolences at the funeral of Kim Il-song. It talked about various other reasons, including South Korea's National Security Law. They said: It is difficult for the North and South to facilitate exchanges because the National Security Law and the Agency for National Security Planning are very powerful. Even if dialogue is held under these circumstances, exchanges of people will not be facilitated.

[Pae] Did you urge North Korea to implement the North Korea- U.S. agreement?

[Watanabe] We stressed that we sought the early resumption of Japan-North Korea talks on the assumption that North Korea would sincerely implement its agreement with the United States on not producing plutonium anymore. The North Korean side did not react directly; they merely said, in effect, that this is not a matter Japan should mention, but a matter North Korea and the United States should decide on. It did not assume a strong attitude of asking, as it did in the past, why Japan is intervening.

[Pae] What do you think was North Korea's basic attitude toward the implementation of the North Korea-U.S. agreement?

[Watanabe] I felt its basic policy was to obtain favorable terms in the international community. They strongly said North Korea would live on its own strength if the United States insisted on having its own way, and that they would be able to make it just as they did in the past. Still, I felt they were thinking it would be better to remain in the international community.

Pael Did you feel North Korea will eventually accept ROK- style light-water reactors?

[Watanabe] I do not know what you mean by ROK-style. However, I had the impression there is room for compromise. Who will pay the money? The United States does not intend to do so, even though it would be good if it did. It is not possible for Japan to pay even if the ROK does not.

[Pae] Was it possible for you to guess when Secretary Kim Chong-il will emerge as president and party general secretary?

[Watanabe] I inquired informally on various occasions. They said he would do so "after the mourning period (July of last year until July of this year) was over." Nevertheless, they did not clearly say he would formally emerge without fail after the mourning period.

[Pae] When do you think the North Korea-Japan negotiations for establishing diplomatic relations will be completely concluded?

[Watanabe] I cannot predict before such negotiations even begin. It took 13 years for Japan and the ROK to conclude talks for establishing diplomatic relations. If the Japan-ROK talks serve as a yardstick and rule, it may not take very long.

Kim Tae-chung Urges Maintaining Contact With ROK

OW0304132995 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 KYODO—Former opposition leader Kim Tae-chong called on Japan on Monday [3 April] to maintain close contact with South Korea in resuming talks with North Korea on opening diplomatic ties.

"There is the need for Japan to consult with South Korea so that it will not let north korea make the wrong judgment," Kim told Japanese reporters stationed in Seoul ahead of his visit to Japan next week.

Kim, who was kidnapped from Japan in 1973 to South Korea, is scheduled to visit Japan for seven days from next Monday for his first formal visit in 22 years.

Since the abduction, Kim has visited Japan four times, but all were stopovers.

Kim said he feels "deep emotion" about the upcoming visit and thanked the Japanese people, mass media and Korean residents in Japan for providing support to him in his fight for democracy.

Kim said he expects the visit to help ease the discord between the Japanese and South Korean people in the wake of Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean peninsula.

"This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Japan. Politically and economically, contact has become close, but the peoples' mutual understanding has yet to be achieved," Kim said.

After being kidnapped to Seoul, Kim was arrested many times and once sentenced to death but released in 1982 when he went to the United States for medical treatment. He returned home 1985.

'Rough Going' Expected in Talks With DPRK

OW0304101995 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] To follow up an accord reached between delegates from the ruling parties of Japan and the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] on resuming negotiations to normalize diplomatic relations, the Japanese Government will step up its preparatory work for resuming government-level negotiations with North Korea. However, taking into consideration that North Korea still maintains a hardline position on the issue of its suspected development of nuclear weapons, the government plans to give careful study on the timing of resuming the negotiations from the standpoint of respecting its concerted action with the United States and South Korea in helping Pyongyang introduce lightwater reactors. In this sense, it is unclear whether the negotiations will be held at an early date. In addition, there is the possibility that the negotiations will be rough going from the outset because what they have reached is a vague accord which allows both sides to interpret the content of it to suit their own convenience, and which seems to have shelved issues over which Tokyo and Pyongyang have disagreed over.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kono told a press conference on the night of 30 March, "I want to place a high value on efforts made by the three ruling parties." He added that "the Japanese Government intends to resume the negotiations as soon as preparations on both sides are completed, and we do not want to waste our time," thus indicating an intention to resume the talks as early as possible. Asked whether the timing of resuming the negotiations will be swayed by the development of the issues of providing light-water reactors, Kono said "I do not think it is a decisive factor."

From now on, the government plans to proceed with coordination work in an effort to start preparatory talks by the end of April at the latest before resuming full negotiations. Nevertheless, there is quite a number of Japanese delegation members who view that "prospects for making substantial progress in Japan-DPRK negotiations are dim unless progress on the issue of providing light-water reactors is made" because the Washington-Pyongyang talks on the nuclear issue are deadlocked and North Korea showed the Japanese delegates its hardline position on this issue.

Japan-North Korea negotiations on normalizing diplomatic relations—to be held "without any preconditions"—will be focused on: the nuclear issue, over which both sides have confronted each other in the past eight talks; the problem of claims; and the issue of identifying Yi Un-hye, who is believed to have been a tutor of a terrorist who was convicted of blowing up a Korean Air jet in 1987. Talks in 1992 broke off mainly because of Japan's taking up the issue concerning "Yi Un-hye." In the forthcoming negotiations, the North Korean side is expected to bring up a joint communique reached in 1990 among the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and the WPK and call on Japan to pay for war damages and extend economic support.

On the other hand, according to Foreign Minister Kono, the Japanese side believes that "governmental negotiations are not bound to the 1990 joint communique" and "all issues will be discussed", including the issues of North Korea's suspected nuclear development and Yi Un-hye. However, when the delegates from the ruling parties met their North Korean counterparts, the North Korean side called on Japan not to take up the issues of North Korea's suspected nuclear development and Yi Un-hye at the governmental negotiations. This indicates that the gulf between the two countries has not been bridged yet. Therefore, there is the possibility that negotiations will be deadlocked from the beginning.

Although many difficult issues lie ahead, a government source says, "It took 15 years to normalize diplomatic relations with South Korea, and the government intends to persistently come to grips with the issue of improving relations with North Korea." Regarding the issue of Yi Un-hye, according to a senior Foreign Ministry official, some have suggested "temporarily freezing the issue" in an attempt to start negotiations without a hitch. They say: "Japan will not refuse to normalize diplomatic relations even if the issue of Yi Un-hye is not resolved."

Coalition Mission-WPK Agreement Reviewed

OW0204142895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] After much rough goings, negotiations between the ruling parties' delegation and the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) reached an ambiguous agreement on realizing an "early resumption of normalization talks." The DPRK is seeking better ties with Japan as a bargaining chip for the stagnant negotiations with the United States over the introduction of light water reactors. Japan also wants to restructure its relations with the DPRK to make the most of its own contribution to the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO). The impact of the ambiguous agreement on future relations between Japan and the DPRK and on the Korean peninsula situation is still uncertain.

As expected, the 1990 joint declaration signed by the WPK, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], and the Social Democratic Party of Japan became a stumbling block during the four-party negotiations. During the 1990 negotiations, former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, the then de facto leader of Japan, promised "compensation for postwar damages" during a tetea-tete meeting with former DPRK President Kim Ilsong. The Kanemaru pledge was incorporated into the

joint declaration, and it became the DPRK's strong bargaining chip for negotiations with Japan. On the other hand, the declaration has been making the normalization talks even more difficult for Japan.

To define the declaration as just a "historical fact," the Japanese delegation proposed adding a clause saying that the Japan-DPRK normalization talks would start "taking the opportunity of" the declaration "adopted" in September 1990. But the DPRK negotiators insisted that the talks start "on the grounds of" the declaration. Finally, both sides agreed to a concession that the normalization talks would "start by the declaration."

However, at the very end of the negotiations, the DPRK again claimed the normalization talks were "started by the historical three-party declaration." Regarding the last sentence of the draft, which said: "The ninth round of the normalization talks should be resumed anew as soon as possible," the DPRK insisted "anew" should be dropped from the sentence. The Japanese delegation accepted the insertion of "historical," but rejected the removal of "anew," even at the risk breaking up the negotiations.

Japanese and DPRK negotiators carried on hot debates over whether the 1990 three-party declaration is "a document of the past" or "a bilateral agreement still in effect." The agreement's wording is particularly vague on this point. While the Japanese coalition views the latest agreement as "nothing more than an indication of facts" (as noted by a senior LDP official), the DPRK is likely to claim that the "validity of the 1990 declaration was reconfirmed by the agreement."

Also, the DPRK negotiators strongly insisted on clarifying that "no preconditions are set" for the resumption of normalization talks. To separate issues involving nuclear weapons development and Yi Un-hye, a Japanese woman allegedly involved in the bombing of a Korean Air jetliner in 1987, from the normalization talks, the DPRK demanded that it clearly note that the resumption of talks were "aimed at a diplomatic normalization between the two nations." Due to resistance by Japanese negotiators, the clause was toned down to read: "The Japan-DPRK negotiations are strictly for improving bilateral relations." But the DPRK then urged the addition of another clause, which read: "(The negotiations) must not be carried on by proxy for any third countries."

This proposal was rejected by the Japanese negotiators who said "that clause is unsuitable for the agreement," but the final draft stated that the Japan-DPRK talks "should be carried on from strictly independent standpoints." The DPRK is expected to use the clause to reject debates on the nuclear issue and other unfavorable topics. Commenting on this, a coalition official said: "Definite negotiations will be carried on by the government," and, as a matter of course, the Japanese Government will discuss the Korean peninsula situation from an

"independent" standpoint. Thus, Japan and the DPRK have totally different understandings of the agreement's wording.

Delegation to DPRK Said Missed 'Best Chance'
OW0204133795 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in
Japanese 1 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Delegation to the DPRK Lost in the Game of Diplomacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ryozo Sunobe, former vice minister of foreign affairs, while serving as ambassador to the ROK, was extremely wary about politicians becoming involved in diplomatic matters concerning the Korean Peninsula or about diplomats being drawn into the political speculations of politicians. The wariness stemmed from his belief that the destiny [meiun] of Japan and the peace of Asia can be influenced by the outcome of diplomacy on the Korean Pensinula—much more than that of diplomacy in any other area.

He thought it was dangerous for anyone to participate in diplomacy on the Korean Peninsula based on instinct or political motives alone. Without a long-term perspective and strategy or without being prepared to bargain, negotiators will only find themselves playing into the palm of the other party.

The ruling delegation to the DPRK, led by former Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe, returned home on 30 March after concluding an agreement on resuming talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations. We would like to welcome that agreement on resuming the normalization talks.

But what we had hoped the delegation to the DPRK would do was to have the clause on "compensation for the post-war period" taken out of the 1990 joint declaration of the three parties (the Workers Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party, and the Social Democratic Party of Japan).

In fact, the joint declaration of the four parties this time essentially reaffirms the validity of the "three parties' joint declaration." The new agreement has turned out to be one which could be interpreted as fully accepting the positions and conditions of the DPRK.

The protocol of the agreement states: "There has been the historical three parties' joint declaration. By this, ... [ellipses as published]" The Korean expression "historical" [rekishiteki] contains in its context the meaning of being "still valid." Therefore, this means that as far as North Korea interprets it, the country has been assured that the normalization talks will be bound by the agreements in the three parties' joint declaration.

Concerning the normalization talks, the recent meeting agreed that "there should be no preconditions... [ellipses as published] in order to make best efforts to improve relations." The two sides also agreed, "The negotiations

... [ellipses as published] should be conducted from indepedent and self-initiated stands."

For the DPRK, this will mean the issues which get in the way of making the best efforts to improve relations—such as the nuclear arms issue and the question of the missing Japanese woman "Yi Un- hye"—cannot be brought up at the talks. Furthermore, if Japan points out the ROK and U.S. positions on the issue of South and North Korea resuming dialogue or the issue of concluding a contract on light-water reactors, the DPRK will be able to argue against it, claiming Japan is not abiding by the agreement on respecting an independent and self-initiated stand.

In other words, there is the concern that the four parties' agreement this time might have put more fetters on the normalization talks rather than removing them. Since even ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied the delegation this time, it appears now that it has also become difficult to insist: "Government-level negotiations cannot be bound by agreements between political parties."

Diplomatic negotiations are games in which nations concerned mobilize their best wisdom to gain interests and achieve purposes for their own countries. Were the negotiations with the North Koreans, the "masters" of diplomatic games, too tough for the ruling parties' delegation?

As a matter of fact, the DPRK has repeated the call for the "unconditional resumption of the DPRK-Japan talks" since the begining of the year. It was the DPRK which demanded that the talks be resumed. This means there was already a blooming perspective for possible resumption of the normalization talks thanks to the diplomatic authorities's efforts for contact with North Korea.

The demand having come from the other side, it should have been more than possible for Japan to bargain with the DPRK to have it assure that "compesation for the post-war period" would not be made a topic in the diplomatic normalization talks. It can be said that Japan missed its best chance for bargaining.

If Japan does not want to commit another error like this, it should adopt a consistent strategy for diplomacy. The country should visualize the future of Northeast Asia based on cooperation with the United States and the ROK. It should also call on the DPRK to stop developing long-range missiles. The time has come for Japan to present its strategy and road map for regional peace and stability.

DPRK Launches 'Diplomatic Offensive' in Asia OW3103153395 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 9

[By Harufumi Kiyoda]

[FBIS Translated Text] Seoul, 29 Mar—The DPRK (North Korea) has activated its diplomatic offensive in various Asian countries. First of all, a delegtion from the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Hyon Chun-kuk, director of the WPK international department, is currently visiting Thailand and India. And what is noteworthy is that since the beginning of this year, North Korea has sent several delegations to Asia, South Asia in particular. Prior to the late President Kim Il-song's death, the "South-South Cooperation" program centering on economic exchanges was set forth as one of the major parts of its new diplomacy. And it is observed that the DPRK has become serious about promoting this program.

Among reports made by DPRK mass media since the beginning of this year alone are the following visits: A delegation of the Social Democratic Party led by its vice chairman, Kim Pyong-sik, visited Thailand and Sri Lanka for about a month in mid-January; a cultural delegation led by Vice Premier Chang Chol, concurrently minister of arts and culture, paid a visit to China and Vietnam from mid-January until early March; a party delegation led by Secretary Hwang Chang-yo visited Nepal and Pakistan for about a month from mid-February; and almost in the same period, an econmic delegation led by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economy Commission, visited Bangladesh and Thailand.

Moreover, DPRK ambassador to Thailand visited Manila for talks on diplomatic relations in late January.

The 100-day period of mourning over the late President Kim Il-song's death expired last October. Inclusive of other visits since then—for example, a military delegation's visit to the three Indochinese countries toward the end of last year—visits to South Asia account for more than half of all visits. Even in planning visits to the countries in this region, the DPRK has given priority to visits to those countries where economic growth is rather slow and with which it is easier to promote economic exchanges. It is observed that the DPRK has made efforts to promote diplomacy with Thailand because it is a traffic base connecting the DPRK with South Asia, and the DPRK regards Thailand as the strongpoint for promoting its South Asia diplomacy.

According to experts in Seoul who specialize in DPRK issues, the DPRK will continue its import of grains, including inexpensive rice, and take positive measures to obtain foreign currencies by starting joint ventures such as timber mills in Laos and farms in Bangladesh.

Resumption of Talks, Ties With DPRK Urged

OW0304041195 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Mar 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Tokyo Urged To Contribute To Resolving Nuclear Issue Through Japan-North Korea Normalization Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Intergovernmental talks aimed at normalizing relations between Japan and North Korea are expected to resume. Japan-North Korea political relations will return to a starting point at long last, after normalization talks were broken off in the fall of 1992 over the issue of Yi Un-hae, a Japanese woman who was allegedly abducted to North Korea to teach Japanese language to a North Korean agent responsible for blowing up a South Korean airliner.

A delegation from three Japanese ruling parties held talks for three days with North Korean officials, but the issue of who will build light-water rectors for North Korea, over which the United States and North Korea have been feuding, and the issue of Japan's post-war compensation to North Korea, were not taken up for substantial discussion. They put those issues aside and managed to strike a deal for the Japanese and North Korean Governments to resume the stalled normalization talks.

Perhaps, North Korea wants to receive economic aid, including food, from Japan by improving relations. The Japanese Government, especially the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Foreign Ministry, intend to strengthen diplomacy concerning the Korean peninsula. It is certain the agreement reached between the four parties was a result of a coincidence of intentions in Tokyo and Pyongyang.

Even if the stalled normalization talks resume, Japan and North Korea have a long way to go in normalizing relations.

A joint declaration, issued by the LDP, Social Democratic Party of Japan, and Workers' Party of Korea when the Kanemaru delegation visited Pyongyang in 1990, referred to Japan's post-war compensation to North Korea. Although North Korea agreed unconditionally to resume the stalled normalization talks, it asked that the joint declaration be the basis. It also asked for Japan's confirmation in writing that the issue of North Korea's nuclear development and "Yi Un-hae" be excluded from the agenda of the normalization talks.

It is hard to believe North Korea has changed its basic stand toward Japan since normalization talks were broken off. They were broken off eight times after both sides feuded over the issue of how to legally define Japan's annexation of Korea and the issue of Japan's compensation to North Korea.

Japan has insisted the joint declaration is an "historical fact" and does not bind the Japanese Government. It will not be easy to bridge differences between Tokyo and Pyongyang over the interpretation of the joint declaration.

Among other things, it is wrong to take a pessimistic view of the future. Tokyo should take a serious view of the fact Pyongyang is showing enthusiasm about holding normalization talks with Japan. The four-party agreement declared that both Japan and North Korea will hold normalization talks with "their own independent positions." North Korea may take the declaration as something that drives a nail into the tripartite alliance of Japan, the United States, and South Korea, but Japan may take the declaration as an expression of the importance North Korea attaches to Japan.

What is more important is that circumstances surrounding the issue of North Korea's nuclear development have changed drastically. The Korean peninsula is about to move toward stabilization following the inauguration of the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO). Through holding normalization talks with North Korea, Japan will be able to provide lateral support for that move.

Conveying the Japanese people's wishes for the stability of the Korean peninsula to North Korea is indispensable for the promotion of Japan's cooperation with KEDO. Japan will need to make efforts to urge the two Koreas to hold dialogue, taking South Korea's position into consideration.

If KEDO's business goes smoothly, the next task for Japan will be to help North Korea address its economic woes and help ease military tensions on the Korean peninsula. Japan should study how it can help North Korea get involved in the international community while carrying out those tasks. We hope Japan will aggressively explore what it can do to achieve these goals while continually holding normalization talks with North Korea.

It goes without saying that Japan should hasten normalization of relations with North Korea. Efforts by Japan to help North Korea cultivate contacts with the international community will move Japan-North Korea relations forward.

What surfaced during past normalization talks was the deep distrust between Japan and North Korea that stemmed from Japan's past colonial rule of Korea and soured relations during the Cold War era. What we want to note is that Japan should lay the foundation for building a relationship of trust between the two countries by discussing all the problems arising from actions it took during the pre-war years on the Korean peninsula, and clarifying its stance on how it will compensate North Korea for its colonial rule at the normalization talks.

Japan must then assert what it needs to without quickly alternating between joy and sorrow in response to changes in North Korea's attitude, and tenaciously continue to hold normalization talks.

DPRK, ROK Christians To Meet at Panmunjom OW3103144095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyoto, March 31 KYODO—North and South Korean groups representing each country's Christians said Friday [31 March] they have agreed to hold a joint service Aug. 15 at Panmunjom to yearn for reunification.

The agreement between the National Council of Churches in (North) Korea (NCCK) and the (South) Korean Christian Federation (KCF) came during a meeting of the World Council of Churches that ended here Friday, the two groups said in a statement.

The NCCK and KCF said the joint service will be held also to commemorate the silver jubilee of Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

They said the two groups will convene working-level preparatory talks as soon as possible in convenient locals. The first such meeting is expected in May, NCCK and KCF officials said.

In the past, the NCCK and KCF had plans to have talks in Seoul or Pyongyang, but opposition from both governments forced them to shelve the idea.

Nomura Group To Help SRV Power Plant Project OW0204124095 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Mar 95 Evening Edition p 1

[By correspondent Fumikyo Murata]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hanoi, 27 Mar-The Vietnamese Government, which is promoting the liberalization of its economy, will set up a company with the help of the Nomura Shoken Group in a bid to raise funds for the construction of a thermal power plant which costs a total of 45 billion yen. According to a top executive of the Nomura Shoken Group, the Vietnamese Government plans to raise funds at home and abroad by listing the company's stock on the first Vietnamese stock exchange, to be opened in Ho Chi Min City next year at the earliest. The Nomura Shoken Group will be the first Japanese firm to become involved in establishing a company to raise funds for the construction of the thermal power plant and the upgrading of infrastructure in Vietnam. Vietnam, plagued by a serious shortage of funds, has relied on foreign loans for upgrading its infrastructure. There is a high possibility that establishing a company to raise funds will become a new method for Vietnam to upgrade its infrastructure.

Playing a key role in setting up the company in Vietnam is Nomura Project Finance International, a Hong Kongbased subsidiary of the Nomura Shoken Group, which is engaged in project consulting. According to Nomura Project Finance International, the Ministry of Energy in Vietnam plans to construct a thermal power plant capable of generating 300,000 kilowatts of power in northern Vietnam at a total cost of 45 billion yen. Nomura Project Finance International and the Ministry of Energy will conduct a joint feasibility study including the choice of a site for the thermal power plant. The construction of the plant will start in 1997, and the plant will start generating power in the year 2000.

The company will be capitalized with approximately 18 billion yen which will be provided by the Vietnam Electric Corporation under the Ministry of Energy. The

Vietnamese Government plans to raise about 40 percent of the total cost to build the thermal power plant by issuing company stock upon receiving advice from the Nomura Shoken Group. Plans under study for selling the company's stocks are that 1) the company's stocks are offered to the Vietnamese public on the first Vietnamese stock exchange to be opened next year; 2) they are allocated to the high-income Vietnamese group; and 3) they are offered to foreign investors. The remaining funds necessary to build the thermal power plant will be met by loans from international financial organizations.

Raising funds through the issue of stocks costs less than foreign loans because it does not require repayment. In Vietnam, billions of dollars worth of Vietnamese currency is said to remain idle in deposits and many Vietnamese are believed to be financially capable of buying the stock. Vietnam, which has continued to register rapid growth, is expected to raise funds easily at home and abroad for the electric project which is expected to yield high returns on investment.

In Vietnam, three state-run enterprises in nonstrategic sectors including the textile sector, have been transferred to private hands, but no company has been established to raise funds for the construction of power plants and infrastructure. The Vietnamese Government plans to make the company a model for listing stocks on the first Vietnamese stock exchange.

The Nomura Shoken Group aims to gain a upper hand on the first Vietnamese stock exchange by helping Vietnam to establish a listed and financially healthy company.

The construction of the thermal power plant will take a few years, and how to guarantee investors stability in the company's stock price is likely to be a task for the Vietnamese Government if it is to promote sales of the stock.

Accord With EU on Auto Import Ceiling Reached OW3103151095 Tokyo KYODO in English 1440 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO— Japan and the European Union (EU) have set a ceiling on calendar 1995 Japanese auto exports to the common market at 1,105,000 vehicles, the two parties announced Friday [31 March].

The figure includes shipments to the three new EU countries of Austria, Finland and Sweden, in addition to exports to 12 older EU member countries.

The 1995 ceiling is based on a projected demand for the entire 15-nation EU market of 13,276,000 vehicles in 1995, the parties said.

Tokyo finally accepted an EU request to include the three new EU nations under the auto export monitoring formula introduced in 1991, Japanese officials said.

Guy Crauser, director general for Industrial Affairs at the European Commission, who headed the EU negotiating team, told reporters, "How to treat the three countries was the most important and the most discussed area" during the two-day meeting in Tokyo.

Country-by-country ceilings were set at 89,600 vehicles for shipments to France, 56,800 vehicles to Italy, 42,900 vehicles to Spain, 39,500 vehicles to Portugal and 186,300 vehicles to Britain.

Germany and six other old EU members are outside the scope of single-nation export monitoring. Japan and the EU agreed to also exclude the three new members from individual ceilings.

In 1994, the overall EU-bound ceiling was set at 993,000 vehicles while actual shipments to the three new members totaled 94,000 vehicles, making the combined total for all 15 countries 1,087,000 vehicles.

As the current-year monitoring level ceiling surpasses that figure, Tokyo can be said to be reaping some gains, one Japanese official said.

In fact, Japanese shipments to the 12 nations in 1994 were 16.5 percent below the ceiling at 818,000 vehicles.

Crauser said the fact that Japanese shipments fell short of the ceiling last year "made the latest discussion much easier."

Japanese shipments for the current year will likely also fail to reach the new ceiling as Japanese automakers struggle under the strong yen and their new models will not come out until the latter half of 1995, Crauser said.

The 1991 accord between Japan and the former European Community calls for the two parties to monitor Japanese exports during a 1993-1999 transitional period before the EU auto market is fully liberalized in 2000.

During the latest meeting, Japan and the EU agreed that Japanese exports to the three new EU members in the final monitoring year of 1999 will reach 168,000 vehicles against 780,000 vehicles in combined auto demand for the three countries.

The ceiling for this year is subject to review at a follow-up meeting in September.

The auto export monitoring system is accepted as an exceptional safeguard under World Trade Organization rules.

Foreign Reserves Set New Global High in Mar

OW0304085795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO— Japan's foreign exchange reserves increased 15.58 billion dollars in March to set another world record of 141.52 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said Monday [3 April]. The figure tops the previous global high of 125.94 billion dollars set in February that broke the record of 125.2 billion dollars set by Germany in September 1992.

The March figure was Japan's 17th consecutive monthly increase in outstanding foreign reserves stretching back to November 1993, the ministry said.

The foreign reserves include convertible foreign currencies, gold and international monetary fund special drawing rights.

The record balance of foreign reserves apparently proved that the Bank of Japan actively bought the dollar for the yen to check the yen's unabated rises, market analysts said.

The 15.58 billion dollar increase in March was the biggest monthly gain on record, topping the previous record increase of 10.23 billion dollars marked in April 1987, a ministry official said.

March was the 13th straight month that the nation's foreign reserves had marked a record, the official said.

The dollar was quoted at 96.58 yen at 9 a.m. March 1 and traded at 89.25 yen at 5 p.m. March 31 in Tokyo dealings, with its monthly high of 96.70 yen posted on March 2 and low of 88.16 yen marked on March 30, according to the official.

The fluctuation during the month was 8.54 yen, sharply up from ranges of 3.19 yen in February and 2.88 yen in January.

As of the end of January, Japan remained the world's largest holder of foreign exchange reserves for the 17th month in a row, amassing 123.9 billion dollars.

Taiwan came in second with reserves of 93.9 billion dollars, followed by Germany with 83.4 billion dollars. The United States posted 78.5 billion dollars and Singapore 57.7 billion dollars.

More on Reaction to Surging Yen, Stock Market

Saito Renews Concern

OW0304093295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito on Monday [3 April] renewed his grave concern over the yen's unabated rise against the dollar and slumping stock prices, though ostensibly stood neutral on credit policy.

Saito said at a press conference, "I'm very worried about the yen's appreciation and drops in stock prices."

Saito avoided, however, replying on whether the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan differ in their views on monetary policy to check the yen's further gains.

"Interest rates are under exclusive jurisdiction of the central bank, which will make judgment (on whether or not to cut the official discount rate)," Saito said.

Saito reiterated that Japan will tenaciously take appropriate action by keeping in touch with currency authorities of each nation, and said the strong yen does not reflect the nation's economic fundamentals.

On the Tokyo currency market Monday, the dollar dived to a local record low in the mid-86 yen level from the lower half of the 89 yen level late last week, following its weakness Friday in New York where it posted a record global low of 86.30 yen.

Discouraged by the yen's rapid surge on foreign exchange dealings, the 225-issue key index in the Tokyo stock market plunged by more than 700 points at the close.

Meanwhile, Saito welcomed an official announcement of a merger between Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo.

"I'm hoping for their positive role in the financial industry approaching a new era of liberalization," Saito said.

Igarashi on Necessary Measures

OW0304034595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0333 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO— Japan will take necessary steps to halt the yen's unabated strength against the U.S. dollar in close coordination with other major countries, the top government spokesman said Monday.

"To stabilize the currency markets, we will pay close attention to market movements and take flexible action in close touch with monetary authorities in the countries concerned," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said at a news conference.

Igarashi made the remark after he and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama conferred with Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura at the premier's official residence about the yen's continued gain against the dollar.

At the meeting, Takemura portrayed the dollar's movements in the currency markets as uncertain and unstable and vowed continued efforts to take "appropriate" measures to bolster the U.S. currency in cooperation with the other countries concerned, Igarashi said.

Igarashi welcomed the U.S. monetary authorities' dollarbuying intervention in Tokyo trading Monday morning as a sign of their strong determination to defend the dollar.

The intervention by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan helped the dollar stage a brief recovery from its postwar local low in Tokyo early Monday,

leaving it hovering at 86.85-87 yen at noon. That compared with late Friday quotes of 86.50-60 yen in New York and 88.35-40 yen in Tokyo just before the dollar plummeted.

Tsutsumi on Slowing Recovery

OW0304080895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The tempo of Japan's economic recovery has been slowed by the escalation of the yen's rise and a slump in stock prices, a senior trade ministry official said Monday [3 April].

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice international trade and industry minister, said, however, that he did not believe the economy has been pushed off its track of moderate recovery.

Tsutumi told a news conference that the recent surge of the yen against the U.S. dollar and falling stock prices, along with the Kobe earthquake in January, have combined to slow the recovery pace "slightly."

Such negative factors are having "a great impact" on Japan's production and overall economic structure, Tsutsumi said.

Concerning the yen's rapid appreciation against the dollar, Tsutsumi underscored the importance of the group of seven industrial countries stepping up policy coordination to reverse the trend.

"Germany cut its key lending rate last week while the Bank of Japan announced a policy of guiding a key short-term money rate significantly lower," he said.

Tsutsumi also said the Japanese Government has done all it can do to arrest further yen rises, including tax incentives, financial steps and a deregulatory package.

"Now it's time for policy cooperation (on credit) to take place on a global basis," Tsutsumi said.

Tsutsumi said the yen-dollar exchange rate's deviation from economic fundamentals has reached "the maximum point" at which companies can cope with it.

On the strong yen's impact on utility charges, Tsutsumi said it is too early to decide whether temporary cuts now in place should continue beyond their scheduled expiration in September.

The yen has appreciated sharply but oil prices, a major factor determining utility charges, have also risen significantly, Tsutsumi said. It is necessary to monitor both factors for some time, he said.

The temporary cuts in gas and electricity charges were introduced in November 1993 as a way to pass on to consumers part of the windfall profits of the power companies from the yen's appreciation against the dollar, which makes fuel imports cheaper.

Kono on Countermeasures

OW0304124895 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Yohei Kono, head of the coalition's Liberal Democratic Party, expressed serious concern Monday [3 April] over the recent steep appreciation of the Japanese yen and bearish stock prices, his aides said.

"The situation is very serious, warranting grave concern, because it cannot be overcome with ordinary measures," he was quoted as telling the party's executive meeting.

Kono disclosed that he has instructed Koichi Kato, head of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, to study the possibility of taking "suprastatutory" countermeasures with officials of the government and the Bank of Japan, the aides said.

Auto Industry Comments

OW0104140895 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Export-oriented industries, such as automobile manufacturers and electrical appliance makers, are increasingly worried about the yen's appreciation, which recently surged to postwar record highs. They said: "The current level is quite above our capabilities. We cannot even work out our budget plans for the new fiscal year." These industries have intensified criticism of the government and the Bank of Japan [BOJ] because they have failed to take measures to stem the yen's rise in a timely manner. Also, the BOJ's policy to guide money market rates lower have had little effect.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association expects the central bank will cut its official discount rate at an early date. It said: "The BOJ should immediately cut its official discount rate to widen interest rate differentials between Japan and the United States."

Honda Motor Company said: "The fluctuations in exchange rates make it difficult to arrange forward foreign exchange contracts. From a long-term viewpoint, we may be able to deal with the yen's appreciation by increasing overseas production, but we have no immediate measures."

Another major automaker noted: "We hope the government will bring down the yen's value to an adequate level by taking all possible measures, excluding stopgap steps. Unless the government takes action, the yen's appreciation will also have bad effects on the employment situation in Japan."

Manufacturers Polled

OW0104083995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO— Despite the yen's escalating appreciation against the dollar, 40 percent of major Japanese manufacturers expect to see bigger profits in fiscal 1995, according to a survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, released Saturday [1 April].

The survey was conducted on 50 manufacturing companies in late March when the dollar was at about 89 yen.

The survey showed 10 of the companies said they think their pretax profits will decline in fiscal 1995 starting Saturday.

The U.S. currency dramatically toppled to the 86 yen range Friday in New York, renewing its postwar record low, and if further falls are seen, the polled companies could revise their profit forecasts.

For fiscal 1994, 37 companies said the yen's strength probably has not affected their pretax profit, while 10 said it has caused them to lower their profit estimates, according to the survey.

The survey showed that most of the companies do not expect the dollar to regain ground to 100 yen.

Of the 29 companies that answered the question, 26 said they had set their in-house rate for the dollar at 90 yen for fiscal 1995, while only three said they had set it at 100 yen or above.

Asked to give multiple replies on ways to cope with the yen's rise, 41 respondents said they will increase procurement from abroad, while 36 said they will step up production overseas, and 11 said they will raise the prices of exports.

Forty of those surveyed said domestic economic deregulation will be needed to stop the yen from rising.

As other concerns than the yen's appreciation, about 60 percent cited the slumping stock market and sluggish capital investment and personal consumption.

On the domestic economy in fiscal 1995, 31 companies said they expect slow recovery, while the remaining 19 said they expect it to be flat.

Keidanren Compiles Appeal

OW0304124995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Monday [3 April] compiled an appeal to the government which proposes measures to bolster the faltering Japanese stock market.

Copies of the appeal, compiled by the top Japanese business organization following a plunge in Japanese stock prices Monday, will be delivered soon to government and securities industry leaders, Keidanren officials said.

The appeal calls for further economic deregulation, abolition of the securities transaction tax, the front-loading of spending on a 10-year, 630 trillion yen public works program.

It also urges a shift of funds from the call money market to the stock market and an easing of restrictions on market-value issues of new shares, the officials said.

Keidanren warned that a slump in the stock market, which it called "the heart of the national economy," could cause serious employment problems and lead to a collapse of the national economy.

It also urged the government to implement comprehensive measures to correct the high value of the yen and stabilize the monetary system, they said.

MOF To Discuss Discount Rate Cut With BOJ

OW0304041995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The Finance Ministry [MOF] will discuss with the Bank of Japan (BOJ) the possibility of lowering the official discount rate to deal with the appreciation of the yen and a sharp fall in stock prices, ministry officials said Monday.

The dollar's value failed to stabilize in Tokyo trading Monday morning, despite market interventions by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the BOJ, sending prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange into a tailspin. The officials said the U.S. interventions reflect Washington's serious concern over the currency turmoil.

They also expressed concern that the plunge in stock prices on the first trading day of a new fiscal year could have an adverse psychological impact on national economic recovery.

Keidanren Head Seeks Cut

OW0304093195 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO— Business leader Shoichiro Toyoda called Monday [3 April] for a cut in the official discount rate to overcome the yen's steep appreciation and bearish stock prices.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told reporters he was seriously concerned about the negative impact of the strong yen on the domestic economy.

"All possible measures, including the official discount rate cut, should be taken," he said, then added, "the domestic economy was recovering slowly, but it now is in a very severe situation."

The key interest rate charged by the bank of Japan on loans to commercial institutions now stands at a postwar low of 1.75 percent per annum.

Association Chief Supports BOJ

OW0304081595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) on Monday [3 April] supported the Bank of Japan's [BOJ's] policy to keep the official discount rate unchanged.

Masaru Hayami, one-time executive director of the central bank, also told reporters that the discount rate is now low enough, supporting the BOJ's position that there is no need to cut the rate for the time being.

The central bank has pursued measures to encourage a fall in short-term interest rates in the money market, while keeping the discount rate unchanged.

Critics have said the policy has caused disappointments in the foreign exchange market, accelerating the dollar's fall and the yen's surge.

Hayami blamed the yen's rise mainly on the U.S. federal budget deficit, Japan's current account surplus and problems in the international monetary system.

He doubted if market interventions by monetary authorities or changes in interest rates would solve the present currency crisis, indicating it is beyond the control of the central bank.

Hayami also said he is confident that the market will return to normal eventually, with the exchange rate returning to the level of about 90 yen to the dollar.

'Super' Bank Expected To Stir Up Peers

OW0104013795 Tokyo KYODO in English 0001 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By Keiko Tatsuta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO— News of the match of a major commercial bank with a strong domestic retail base and a world-famous foreign exchange bank to create a "super" bank is likely to provoke both envy and worry throughout Japan's banking sector.

The just-announced planned merger between Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo may have the immediate effect of arousing a kind of nervousness among other banks, said Yukiko Ohara, banking analyst at UBS Securities Ltd.

"It is a particularly beneficial merger which will create a fairly strong bank through the offsetting of each other's weak points," Ohara said, adding, "there are no more counterparts among other city banks for realizing such a beneficial merger."

Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo on Tuesday [28 March] announced their intention to merge by April next year at the latest, thereby becoming the world's largest

commercial bank, with total assets worth nearly 73 trillion yen and financial resources totaling about 45 trillion yen. Their aim, they said, is to offer a comprehensive service of higher quality.

The two banks have been far out in front in disposing of bad loans, while most other banks are struggling to reduce the burden of nonperforming loans, and the strain may last a long time, Ohara said.

As of Sept. 30, Mitsubishi's outstanding balance of disclosed nonperforming loans came to about 55 billion yen, while that of the Bank of Tokyo amounted to some 23 billion yen, compared with around 1 trillion yen each at other leading commercial banks, such as Sakura, Fuji and Sanwa.

The ratio of bad-loan balance to total money loaned stood at 1.80 percent for Mitsubishi and 2.11 percent for the Bank of Tokyo, lowest among 11 Japanese commercial banks.

Hiromi Tokuda, adviser at the Nomura Research Institute, described the merger as the birth of "a super megabank which is a titan with both wits and the healthiest body."

"The amalgamation will be a great stimulus to other banks ... a mood may grow that they could fall behind unless they develop new business," Tokuda said.

Other banks, however, were left with a smaller range of options and cannot rival the new gigantic bank through mergers, he said.

"They should aim at a bank outstripping others in a certain field, with high quality regardless of size, by reviewing their own resources," Tokuda said. "Otherwise, the gap will widen more and more."

In this sense, the megamerger will help activate Japan's lackluster financial circles, Tokuda said.

"The time is over when it was the bigger, the better," an official at a major commercial bank said.

Moves toward reorganization, including a merger of city banks, in the five years to come have been the talk of a financial sector undergoing severe conditions, the official said.

"At the news of this merger, everybody got more alert to see which is next and with what timing," she said.

UBS's Ohara said authorities are set to admit that a time of selection is beginning and that only the strong will survive.

"In either case, there will no longer be easy mergers. Hard times are coming (for financial institutions)," she said. "They may be forced willy-nilly into reorganization, rather than positively seeking it."

Ohara wondered whether two of Japan's three long-term credit banks will still survive five years down the road, while she expects most trust banks to fall under the control of affiliated banks.

"Deregulation could lead to a merger of two top-ranking trust banks," she said.

A senior official of the Finance Ministry suggested a possible reorganization involving commercial banks and long-term credit banks, saying, "this merger might lead to talk that long-term credit banks are large in number."

The Bank of Japan also seems to be ready to see survival of the fittest prevail among banks.

"It is only natural that reorganization and liquidation will become an everyday occurrence in the financial world as well," a senior central bank official said.

Tatsuo Yasukawa, chief economist at the Sanwa Research Institute, affiliated with Sanwa Bank, said Japanese financial institutions ranging from commercial banks to credit unions are facing the challenge of how to demonstrate competitiveness, not only in Japan but also in the world at large under rapid globalization.

Yasukawa said a universal bank will be born through the merger of Mitsubishi, which last fall acquired Nippon Trust Bank as a subsidiary, and the Bank of Tokyo, with its superb international network.

"It will surely be a tough competitor to Sanwa Bank as well," Yasukawa said.

Size is no longer as great a consideration as before, Yasukawa said, adding quality or profitability will become the touchstone for the industry from now on.

However, one executive at a commercial bank said. "we may have to consider every possible means to survive, including mergers and acquisitions of overseas banks."

BOT, Mitsubishi Bank Announce Merger Details OW0304113895 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The Bank of Tokyo (BOT) and Mitsubishi Bank announced on Monday [3 April] the details of the terms of their planned merger as well as the name of the new bank.

Mitsubishi Bank President Tsuneo Wakai and BOT President Tasuku Takagaki announced at a news conference Monday afternoon that the new bank would be called the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

The deadline for the merger was set at April 1, 1996, the pair said.

The name of the new bank, which will be the world's largest in terms of assets, will be the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the two bankers said.

Takagaki will assume the presidency of the new bank and Wakai will become chairman, they said.

However, in a bid to live up to the legal technicalities concerning procedures for a merger, the BOT will disband and Mitsubishi Bank will maintain its presence, they said in a press statement.

The terms of the merger call for appraising the value of one BOT share as being equal to 0.8 of a Mitsubishi Bank share, they said in the document.

investors from among BOT shareholders will be allotted Mitsubishi Eank shares at the agreed-upon ratio when the date of the merger is finalized, the pair said.

A BOT spokesman said that if preparations are completed by the date of merger, the shares of the new bank to be allotted to BOT shareholders will carry the name of the new bank, Bank of Tokyo- Mitsubishi.

The two banks will seek approval of the terms of the planned merger from their respective shareholders at shareholders' meetings to be held separately in June, they said.

Mitsubishi Bank will also give Mitsubishi shares to its shareholders at a certain date before the merger on a gratis basis, at a ratio of 0.05 of one share for every full share, they said.

The address of the new bank to be registered with the nation's financial authorities will be identical to that of the current address of Mitsubishi Bank in Tokyo's Marunouchi area, they said.

Takagaki told reporters the merger may take place Oct. I but that this would be the earliest date.

He said the two banks have not yet struck an agreement on what the status of their respective U.S. subsidiaries will be after the merger.

The merger will not lead the banks to lay off some of their workforces immediately, Takagaki said.

The pair said the two banks will set up a committee of experts by the end of April to discuss details concerning the merger.

The banks' statement noted that the Japanese financial community and business circles are facing "large currents" in the present age when "financial liberalization and globalization are making rapid headway."

It then said of reasons for the merger, "we believe it is necessary to create a bank with a strong management base that will enable it to withstand the changes in the turbulent (financial market) situation and to counteract risks that have become multiple and complicated."

"The creation of such a bank, we believe, will bolster our services to the public as a bank and help contribute to fostering the stability of the (nation's) financial system," it said. The serious tone of the statement comes at a time when many financial institutions are seeking to overcome the adverse effects of accumulated nonperforming loans to real estate developers and others following the burst of the asset-inflated bubble economy of the 1980s, as well as seeking to improve their ability to deal with financial service decontrols.

It said, "the two banks have reached the conclusion that a merger to be conducted in a manner that will help them further each other's merits and make up for each other's shortfalls would meet these aims, thereby bringing rewards to shareholders and clients."

Mitsubishi has long expertise and experience in retail banking, while the bank of Tokyo is noted for its international banking operations.

"The new bank will have an expanded network of branches in and out of Japan, so it will be able to provide excellent financial services and information in various parts of the world" in addition to domestic services, the statement said.

The merger will make the new bank the world's largest commercial bank in terms of total assets and financial resources, which will total 73 trillion yen and 45 trillion yen, respectively, far eclipsing those of other major commercial banks, known as city banks in Japan.

Wakai said immediately after the announcement of the merger on March 28 that it is primarily aimed at providing customers with a comprehensive service of higher quality, including securities and trust business.

Mitsubishi Bank, established in 1919, is capitalized at 387 billion yen. The average outstanding balance of deposits, including certificates of deposit, and loans stood at 35.3 trillion yen and 31.1 trillion yen respectively in fiscal 1994.

With about 16,000 employees, it had 373 outlets at the end of March last year, 345 of which are domestic.

The Bank of Tokyo, which was founded in 1946 and became a foreign exchange bank in 1954, is capitalized at 252.2 billion yen. Its average outstanding balance of deposits and loans stood at 10.3 trillion yen and 11.2 trillion yen, respectively. With 8,400 employees, it has 99 outlets, 62 of which are overseas.

The Bank of Tokyo is a leading foreign exchange bank with a small domestic network of 37 outlets.

The amalgamation is expected to accelerate the reorganization of Japan's financial industry at a time when many financial institutions are looking for ways to improve their earnings bases after the collapse of the "bubble" economy, analysts say.

Mitsubishi To Post 100 Billion Yen in Losses

OW3103131295 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO— Mitsubishi Bank said Friday [31 March] it will post losses totaling 100 billion yen in its results for the second half of fiscal 1994 ending Friday.

The loss has stemmed from Mitsubishi's financial support to Diamond Mortgage Co. and another financially troubled nonbank financial affiliate, the major commercial bank said.

Mitsubishi will also forgo 5 billion yen's worth of interest payments on its loans to the two affiliates.

The bank, however, has not revised its earnings prospect for fiscal 1994 by posting gains from sales of its stock holdings.

The bank began helping the affiliates pull out of their plights in the second half of fiscal 1993 with financial support totaling 295 billion yen.

* Commentator Critical of Foreign Ministry

952B0110A Tokyo SEIKAI in Japanese Feb 95 pp 68-73

[Article by Jiro Honzawa, political commentator: "U.S. 'Outpost' in Japan Counter to National Interest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The year 1995 marks the 50th year after the war. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA], which had never stood on the center stage of politics, has suddenly been cast into the spotlight. Meanwhile, there are arguments that the MOFA is unnecessary, or that it should be dismantled. Whither goes MOFA?

Reaction Against Response in Sending SDF Troops to Rwanda

Details of the fact that, immediately after the dispatch of Self Defense Forces [SDF] troops as part of the United Nations PKO [peacekeeping operations] to the small African nation of Rwanda, a strong reaction emerged from the Defense Agency and its environs have not necessarily been reported.

In reality, the ire among the uniformed officers had reached a peak. The anger was of course directed against MOFA.

Although the troop dispatch to Rwanda tended to appear in the people's eyes as stemming from the SDF's ambition to become a bona fide military force, it was not necessarily so.

Of course, as far as Rwanda was concerned, both the United States and France judged the stationing of their troops as meaningless and were ready to pull out. It was naturally risky, but the local refugees were in need of medical care, potable water, tents, blankets, and food. The question was whether it was useful for the SDF, armed with a single machine gun, to be sent there. It was absolutely unnecessary.

Even former Defense Agency Director General Raizo Matsuno spoke out sharply that "it is bizarre, no matter how one looks at it. It is outrageous. This will definitely become an issue. It is necessary to take a good look at it."

Former Defense Agency Director General Tsutomu Kawara, who is known as a moderate, uncharacteristically pointed out sharply, "It will pose a question of responsibility if an incident should happen. This is serious."

The reason was that the troop dispatch to Rwanda was not a rash act by the Defense Agency, but by MOFA. Some sources denounce MOFA as the "Kwantung Army." Even the conservative politicians who were seen as actively grappling with the problem of sending the troops overseas were protesting the dispatch to Rwanda under MOFA's direction.

Herein also lies a basis for the loud demand for the dismantling of MOFA.

However, from MOFA's standpoint, the scenario from the outset was to normalize the sending of SDF troops. It would be most satisfactory for MOFA if the troop dispatch following the withdrawal of U.S. and French troops were pushed through, followed by a shooting incident and resulting in the elevation of PKO [peace-keeping operations] to PKF [peacekeeping forces] status.

If such a situation occurred, the SDF would no longer belong to the people, but would become a mere tool to accomplish MOFA's ambitions. The Rwanda dispatch has truly exposed MOFA's true intentions and as a result has brought apprehension within the Defense Agency which had believed its principal mission to be "exclusively defense."

Reason for Frantic UN Security Council Membership Campaign

MOFA's protusion is not limited to the PKO and PKF. It also seeks a permanent seat on the UN Security Council [UNSC]. The UNSC is presently run by the nuclear nations, including the United States, Japan, Britain, France, and China. The permanent committee members have the prerogative of exercising the veto.

MOFA wishes to join the privileged nations and become prominent in world affairs. Without assuming a military role, qualification for membership as a privileged nation may be questionable. Based on this belief, MOFA is extremely enthusiastic about the SDF troop dispatch.

In reply to the question of why membership in the permanent committee is desired, MOFA says: "Because we would like to have access to information." It says that, as a nonpermanent member, information about the nations of the world is inaccessible.

However, that is strange reasoning.

It is reportedly because the MOFA, which frantically seeks membership in the permanent committee, displays

interest in "gunboat diplomacy." This tends to strengthen its relations with the armament-oriented Defense Agency.

Kabun Kato and Taro Nakayama, both former foreign ministers, regard the close relations between the two agencies as "a natural phenomenon." A major political power is simultaneously a major military power. Because this is unfortunately the conventional wisdom in the world, the relations between the two agencies becomes something special.

By evolving a theory of tension in the foreign affairs white paper, the Defense Agency is able to secure a budget for military expansion. The munitions industry also pulls wires behind the scenes, but perhaps the real manipulator is the "merchant of death."

It was Ichiro Ozawa (New Frontier Party secretary general) who publicly mentioned a rise as a political power at the political level. It appears unmistakable that MOFA sources had a hand in his book, Blueprint for Building a New Japan.

As for its content, it purportedly wants Japan to be a "normal nation." Setsu Shiga, a favorite follower of Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] President Yohei Kono and (the late) Prime Minister Takeo Miki, and others see Ozawa as devotee of nationalism. This writer also thinks so.

Tatsui Chuman, a former Diet member of the Fukuda faction, describes Ozawa's theory as follows. "By normal nation, he means establishing a military draft system and dispatching troops to foreign nations. In effect, Ozawa is a militarist."

The Fukuda faction was a group of hawks—a faction that is a congregation of constitutional revisionists. It is noteworthy that Chuman who had belonged to such a faction brands Ozawa as a militarist.

Rise to Action by Liberal Faction

The close relationship between the MOFA and Ozawa—and further between the Defense Agency and Ozawa—has introduced a sense of crisis within the LDP. Former Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi and others are reacting against the MOFA's protrusion, but it may be regarded as a natural phenomenon under such circumstances.

Incidentally, the liberals within the LDP have risen in action at this point. They have also persuaded the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] and Sakigake [Harbinger] to form a "society for the formation of a liberal administration." It consists of 90 members and may be regarded as the anti-Ozawa core. It is also anti-MOFA.

The society looks critically at Ozawa's dictatorial and strongman political tactics, and toward the MOFA which has linked itself to the Ozawa bandwagon with constitutional revision and military expansion as its goals. The society denounces the Ozawa-style direction as "U.S.-fearing, servile-type diplomacy" and as "bureaucracy-led." It also points out that, "In today's post-Cold War era, the hawks wear masks as reformists and attack the doves as protectors of the past. Their policy consisted merely of military cooperation with the United States at the outset, but even some Americans are wary that, once the peace concept of the present constitution is denied, there is the danger that it may be linked to an awareness as a world power and result in militarization."

This can be regarded as a warning signal concerning MOFA's bent on becoming a political power.

The members of the LDP liberal faction include the following Dietmen: Shinzo Abe (son of the late Foreign Min Shintaro Abe), Ichiro Aisawa (a graduate of the Matsushita Political and Economic Institute), Kosuke Ito, Jitsuo Inagaki, Hirokazu Inaba, Yasuoki Urano, Hajime Ogawa, Koji Omi, Sempachi Oishi, Yoshinori Ohno, Mikio Okuda, Takuji Kato, Kazuyoshi Kaneko, Genjiro Kaneko, Shizuka Kamei, Shunjiro Karasawa, Jiro Kawasaki, Yoshio Kimura, Fukujiro Kikuchi, Fumio Kishida, Yuko Kurihara, Makoto Koga, Tetsuo Kondo, Genichiro Sata, Shinji Sato, Toshitsugu Saito, Takanori Sakai, Shin Sakurai, Setsu Shiga, Shozaburo Jimi, Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Yoshinobu Shimamura, Katsuhiko Shirakawa, Naoki Tanaka, Sadakazu Tanigaki, Hiroki Chuman, Jin-en Nagase, Yuya Niwa, Hiromu Nonaka, Yoshiro Hayashi, Shozo Harada, Takeo Hiranuma, Koji Futada, Yoshiyuki Hozumi, Hiroyuki Hosoda, Toshikatsu Matsuoka, Seiichiro Murakami, Yoshitaka Murata, Kazumi Mochinaga, Eisuke Mori, Yoshio Yazu, Yuji Yamamoto and Masatoshi Wakabayashi.

Among them are not a few who were known as hawks. It is also important to regard the metamorphosis of the hawks seriously.

Aside from this, Junichiro Koizumi et al are greatly concerned about the MOFA joining the UNSC, and are increasing their surveillance.

The reason is that the notion of an alliance between MOFA and Ozawa has taken root within the LDP.

An Outpost for the United States

There have been no noteworthy achievements in Japan's postwar diplomacy. This is because not only was it defeated in war, but Japan has also been fully affected by the U.S.-Soviet confrontation.

The so-called independent diplomacy was actually an empty chant without substance. It has been obliged throughout to become the spearhead of U.S. anticommunist policy. The normalization of Sino-Japanese relations (1972) may be considered to be Japan's only postwar diplomatic achievement, but even this it attributed to Sino-Soviet confrontation as the backdrop.

The normalization of Sino-Japanese relations was not at all due to efforts by the diplomatic authorities, but was uncommonly realized at the political level.

The advent of the Tanaka cabinet based on a coalition of the Tanaka, Ohira, Miki, and Nakasone factions made it a reality.

Until then, MOFA consistently catered to Washington's wishes and made no attempt to do anything. Japan's MOFA merely served as an outpost for the United States. Cynics called MOFA "Washington's Kasumigaseki branch."

Journalists who were versed in MOFA's inside affairs ridiculed MOFA bureaucrats as "tax robbers."

Although information was most important for MOFA, there has sadly been not a single report in Nagata-cho during the past 20 years that MOFA has obtained any bona fide information.

As in the summer of 1994, talk heard in Nagata-cho was limited to complaints by the diplomats at embassies and consulates abroad who were inundated with foreign junkets by Dietmen of both the ruling and opposition parties. Some were even obliged to take care of the sexual needs of the parliamentarians.

There has not been a single instance of a high-minded subject that would tickle the pride of the diplomats. The predominant mood was that MOFA's mission was nonleakage of information outside or the prevention thereof.

It was tantamount to doing nothing, but oddly not a single Diet member of either the ruling or opposition parties chastised it.

Humility Existed Previously

We believe that even MOFA was relatively serious and had a motto of humility during the Tanaka, Miki, Fukuda, and Ohira administrations.

This writer was a member of the Kasumigaseki Club when (the late) Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira became foreign minister. Shinsaku Hogen, who was respected as a hawkish bureaucrat, was the vice minister for foreign affairs.

However, during my attendance at Hogen's press conferences, I had never heard him speak or act in any bizarre hawkish manner. The normalization of Sino-Japanese relations became a reality through the combined efforts of Prime Minister Tanaka and Foreign Minister Ohira, and the authority of the prime minister and the foreign minister permeated the entire MOFA. Only the Seirankai [Blue Storm Society], which was remotely controlled by (the late) pro-Taiwan Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, openly revealed strange anticommunist speech and behavior.

The principal society members were (the late) Ichiro Nakagawa, Shintaro Ishihara, Michio Watanabe, Eiichi Nakao, and Hiroshi Mitsuzuka.

With the exception of the Fukuda cabinet, the Tanaka, Miki, and Ohira cabinets were liberal administrations. Even (the then) Prime Minister Fukuda, who was regarded as a hawk, announced a slogan of "omnidirectional diplomacy," and removed all anticommunist appearances. Because former Prime Minister Kishi—who was branded as a class-A war criminal—lurked in the background, it was difficult to institute any liberal measures. Notwithstanding, Fukuda strove desperately to remove all "Kishi influences."

In fact, the Sino-Japanese peace and amity pact was signed not by the Miki cabinet, but by the Fukuda cabinet. It was also the result of (the late) Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda's aggressive efforts. However, Secretary General Masayoshi Ohira and former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka provided support behind the scenes for the foreign minister.

At the time, Tanaka had sent Koichiro Aino of the liberal wing as administrative vice minister to MOFA. Aino is said to have served as liaison for the Tanaka-Sonoda line, resulting in the successful signing of the treaty.

Looking back, Aino says: "MOFA bureaucrats in those days showed humility. However, it tends to be lacking nowadays. There is no problem with individuals, but bizarre things happen when they act as a group."

He has grave apprehensions concerning Ozawa's political methods and world outlook, and points out the result of relations between Ozawa and the MOFA as follows. "A society consisting of irresponsible young bureaucrats and Ozawa has reportedly continued for a long time, and it has impacted on Ozawa."

Ozawa entered politics as a young man. His mind is obsessed with votes. It is also said that "his other preoccupations are drinking and women. He seldom studies. He is therefore easily persuaded by odd bureaucrats who offer advice, and it has resulted in his blueprint for building a new Japan" (a news authority).

Gunboat Diplomacy Is Real Problem

It must be more than 20 years since I was a freshman reporter. I still remember the assertion made by Yasumi Kurogane, an old boy from the Ministry of Finance [MOF].

"The MOFA bureaucrats are a hopeless bunch. They crave for such toys as airplanes and tanks. They feel that they cannot conduct diplomacy without toys."

Kurogane was a top student at Tokyo Imperial University. He was extremely brilliant. Today, the number-one intellectual in Nagata-cho is former Prime Minister Kiichiro Miyazawa, but even he took a back seat to Kurogane.

Kurogane's remark was apropos. He said that the MOFA bureaucrats are just babies who "want toys." Of course, toys here mean weapons and ammunition.

The peace constitution stipulates diplomacy without military power. Diplomacy is nonmilitary. Peaceful diplomacy is the essence of diplomacy. Diplomacy backed by military power is actually not diplomacy. Japan's diplomats are ignorant of such elemental facts. Why? Because their model is the United States.

A former secretary to the foreign minister says: "Their minds are strange. After the war, the Home Ministry was abolished, but MOFA was not. The prewar gunboat diplomacy continues to exist intact."

MOFA's true colors are apparent. There is also room for a rise of debate on the dismantling of MOFA.

In fact, with the resignation of the Suzuki administration, the Nakasone cabinet—advocates of nationalism was born, and MOFA's inclination toward gunboat diplomacy gradually came to the fore. The remark by Kurogane was accurate.

Moreover, at the time, Washington (U.S. President Reagan) was controlled by a huge U.S. military-industrial conglomerate. A "strong United States" pressed the nationalist prime minister to expand armament, and he immediately complied.

The 1-percent framework ratio of defense spending to the GNP established by the Miki cabinet was annulled by Nakasone. MOFA's dream of military-political aggrandizement suddenly resurfaced under the Kaifu cabinet. This was during the Gulf war.

It was LDP Secretary General Ozawa who first sent minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. The cabinet drafted a bill to dispatch the SDF troops and submitted it to the Diet, but it was scrapped due to reaction by the opposition parties and public opinion. The relationship between the MOFA and Ozawa was probably established during this period, and evolved into today's runaway, reckless movement.

Other Agencies Dismayed by MOFA

The mad actions by the MOFA is causing danger signals to flicker in Japan's domestic politics. The "liberalization of rice" was railroaded through by Ozawa and MOFA, and the inclination of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries [MAFF] was virtually ignored. MAFF bureaucrats were extremely incensed.

Regarding U.S.-Japan economic frictions also, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and MOFA have clashed headlong, but the initiative is in the hands of the latter which is misinformed about actual details. MITI officials are also infuriated with MOFA. Normalization of relations with North Korea have not materialized although 50 years have passed since the war ended. This is also due to the MOFA's irresponsible diplomacy.

The only political achievement of Shin Kanemaru, who is called the "embodiment of money power," was to allow breathing space between Japan and North Korea.

However, even Kanemaru's influence could not change the MOFA bureaucrats' hard heads. Diet member Hajime Ishii, who once actively worked to normalize Japan-North Korea relations, publicly stated that "MOFA is out of its mind." Today when there is U.S.-North Korea agreement, it was MOFA again that interfered with the ruling coalition parties' attempt to draft a plan for a visit to North Korea.

The response by MOfA, criticized for having done nothing during the 50 postwar years and likely to ignore the constitution, is dubious no matter how one looks at it.

Regarding dismantling MOFA, the time has apparently come for the nation to consider it seriously.

NFP Official Decries Criticism of Former Komeito

OW0304085995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0829 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—The policy affairs chief of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party: NFP) has lashed out at criticism within the party against a group of lawmakers from the defunct party Komeito, of which he was a leading member.

Yuichi Ichikawa, chairman of Shinshinto's Policy Affairs Committee and former director general of the Buddhism-based Komeito, said in a magazine article that his group of former Komeito members had never been dependent on Shinshinto for its political survival nor will it be in the future.

His remarks, in an article in the May issue of the monthly GENDAI (MODERN TIMES), are viewed by political pundits as hinting that the Komeito group could defect from Shinshinto if such criticism persists.

Ichikawa said the Komeito bloc is avoiding having any influence exerted on its political activities as a part of the main opposition party by its principal support organization, the lay Buddhist sect Soka Gakkai.

Shinshinto was created in December last year through a merger of most opposition parties including Komeito.

"There is a limitation to our perseverance" with any discrimination or affront against the group by other Shinshinto members, he said.

Gubernatorial Races in Tokyo, Osaka Polled

OW0304125795 Tokyo KYODO in English 1209 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—Independent candidates are leading the former bureaucrats backed by major parties in the Tokyo and Osaka gubernatorial races, according to KYODO NEWS SERVICE polls released Monday.

In Tokyo, prize-winning writer and television personality Yukio Aoshima has a lead over five other main candidates in the April 9 gubernatorial election, according to a random telephone survey of 1,500 Tokyo residents conducted April 1-2.

The 62-year-old Aoshima, who quit as a member of the House of Councillors to run for the Tokyo governorship, is known as a maverick politician and is fighting the race without taking to the streets in line with his pledge not to spend money on such a campaign.

In the Tokyo gubernatorial race, former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara had been widely viewed as the front-runner because he is supported by a broad range of political parties.

But the survey shows 64 percent of the pollees say they support no parties, suggesting that voters in such a category would have a casting vote in the race involving six major candidates.

But it remains open to uncertain factors as to who the front-runner really is because 48 percent of the pollees have yet to decide how to vote.

In Osaka, comedian-turned legislator Knock Yokoyama, whose real name is Isamu Yamada, has a lead over the other candidates, including a former bureaucrat backed by a wide range of political parties, according to a KYODO telephone poll involving 1,600 residents in Osaka.

The poll, also taken on April 1-2, found the 63-year-old Yokoyama leads Takuya Hirano, a former vice minister of the Science and Technology Agency with support from a range of parties, and other candidates.

In the same vein as Tokyo, 52 percent of the pollees replied they are not supporting any parties.

The portion of people who have yet to decide how to vote was high in Osaka as well, standing at 47 percent leaving it uncertain as to who will win the election.

The Tokyo and Osaka gubernatorial races are among 13 gubernatorial elections to be held on April 9.

* Article Criticizes Current Political Thinking 952B0080A Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese Jan 95 pp 84-90

[Article by Muneyuki Shindo, professor at Rikkyo University law department: "Deep-Rooted Political Ills"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When I returned in the middle of September from a stay of more than a year in England, most of my political science and journalist friends said in unison that political points of contention have been erased. Among them were some who even said with puzzled expressions that the Imperial Rule Assistance Association has started again 50 years after the end of the war. Or there were also some who stated that even the big coalition of eight non-Liberal Democrataic Party [LDP] parties itself was fake.

Certainly, from the July 1993 change of government until today almost all the parties except the Japan Communist Party have participated in political power. And after all, a tenacity for power created the coalition government of the LDP, the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], and the new party Sakigake [Harbinger]. The vibrant politics which started as a "political reform coalition" or "non-LDP coalition" has now completely degenerated.

On 11 November, the redistricting bill based on the new lower house election system was materialized. On 10 December, a new party that can be compared with the big coalition of conservative parties of 15 November 1955, is to be born. Conditions for the next general election for the lower house are being prepared. However, almost no one is expecting that politics will have its lively season again due to this. In fact, the new political party is far from being such a party which would have the possibility of cutting a path through a new era. It is only an "election coalition" created by clinging to seats before the new election system. The internal condition of the coalition parties in power is similar and there is no way that we can expect clear opposing axes to be formed between both parties. Thinking this way, the opinion that the political points of contention have been erased and a cooperative political structure will be completed is not necessarily off the mark.

Needless to say, these assertions are supported on the other hand by the sense of value that it should not be this way. However, looking at the tone of arguments about the continuous change in governments from a distance of eight or nine time zones, I had the impression that they were either enjoying together the muddy power game of politicians or earnestly criticizing political power from a high place. Politicians say they must recover the vitality of politics and political critics also say so. However, as long as there is lacking an inspection of the style of thought behind the standard theory, such opinions are meaningless.

Style of Thought Split Into Two Poles

The extraordinary session of the Diet beginning on 30 September, before which important bills such as political reform, tax system reform, and pension reform were laid, showed us the pitiful condition of intellectual productivity in politics—slander such as rumors which were not even pursuing scandals, and confrontation over the scheduling of proceedings, abandoning debates on the contents of the bills. Generally, I cannot find anything besides these two aspects. Under such circumstances, the bills were dealt with one after another. Tax system reform and pension reform, these are problems concerning the basis of the relationships between people in the aging society. In the middle of the obvious power game, the bills are dealt with without making the point of the issue clear, and people's insecurity for the future is only increasing. It is extremely simple to ask the ruling coalition to make the contents clear and to ask the

opposition parties to concentrate on debating the content of policy. However, even though we ask for such things, the situation does not seem to change. I must say that the roots of the political ills are very deep.

Many people, not just politicians, talk about the "collapse of the 1955 system" and the "post cold war era." However, the reality is that what this really means, how politics perceived the problem in the preceding era, and what the illness contained therein is, are never discussed. To put it a little crudely, what the politicians talk about means at the most only the collapse of the government controlled by the single party LDP and the end of the Soviet Union.

Because of this situation, contrary to these fashionable words, thinking in this country about politics has not gone beyond the bipolar split of broad thinking and narrow thinking, which has formed the basis of political thinking in postwar Japan. In other words, under the 1955 system or under the cold war, the simple political thinking style featuring the opposing axes of "capitalism or socialism," "LDP or anti-LDP," "the United States or the Soviet Union," went unchallenged. However, there is a limit on the ability to collect votes by confrontation in such broad thinking, especially in a highly developed capitalist society like Japan. So, almost regardless of these opposing axes, they made roads, bridges, and harbors, or appealed with small welfare works and decreasing the people's burden, and furthermore, the narrow thinking has spread which thinks it is politics that even takes care of employment and has people released from the custody of the police. Since it had political power, the LDP exerted itself more in politics by narrow thinking, but the opposition parties including the Japan Communist Party also have been soaked in politics by this narrow thinking. "nation-building Japan" is a term not only for LDP politics.

However, politics by this narrow thinking had another characteristic especially in the case of the opposition parties. Before I stated that politics by this narrow thinking was almost without regard to politics by broad thinking. However, if it was not accepted by the ruling party, the opposition parties reduced it to a confrontation with a series of broad situation axes such as "capitalist logic," "subordination to the United States," or "unconstitutional." Although it was a political demand of the narrow situation thinking, looking objectively, the citizens' various welfare values were inherent. As long as they reduced defeated movements or demands to broad situation axes, the power of planning programs which actualized the value could not avoid being extremely decreased. In postwar Japanese society, it is said that the people's resentment against the low level of welfare is also low. However, if the defeat from the battle was generalized as I stated before, and as long as that generalization had its "power of persuasion," even though there might have been resignation, there must not have been any resentment.

Anyway, this broad situation axis itself is no longer current. In other words, there has been a dramatic change in the circumstances of the times which supported the platforms of political parties. Primarily they now should be thinking about the poor and simple thinking style of the past. However, since they are not doing this, none of the parties knows who they are and, not only is this making the situation more confused, but they also are waving new signboards about without carefully selecting their contents, such as new conservative, conservative liberal, social democratic, socialist democratic liberal, people's rights, and the third pole. This itself must be called a continuation of the condition of a split into two poles of large-situation thinking and small-situation thinking. However, the great difference from the past is that only having new signboards cannot become a concentrating axis or an opposing axis. At the most, it only has meaning as a slogan for an "election coalition" in order to fight over one parliamentary seat.

Politics Lacking a Viewpoint for Self-Determination

Let's now think about this poor political thinking style again. The biggest fault is that the more they wave the empty signboards about, the more the axis of political thought will fall into that of narrow thinking. Although they say it is a "government aiming for liberal politics, just what part of the provision of the "single payment for welfare," which was shown as though it is an exchange for the approval of the tax reform bill, is related to the poster "liberal"? I am not against the value-added tax itself, but as long as they say liberal, for level fairness, there should be systematic devices such as tax exemptions on the necessities of life beginning with public utility charges and food, or "rebates" for people who have income tax exemptions. After all, the national compensation for atomic bombing victims was switched to a problem of the scope of coverage and the amount of the compensation. I might be criticized for saying this, but the atomic bombing victims and their families did not ask for the granting of national bonds amounting to only 100,000 yen. Originally what was sought, as the people of the nation which had experienced the disaster of nuclear war, was a declaration on the extinction of nuclear weapons. Even as they explain their own position with refined words, just what part of their action, which merges the solution of the problem into the provision of money and valuables, is liberal?

I am not criticizing only the operation of the Murayama coalition government. I would like to criticize the political thinking style and method. We have seen governments like this which reduce such problems concerning the basis of politics into the provision of money and valuables so much that I cannot mention them all. Just like this time, when introducing the consumption tax in 1989, the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP then agreed on the provision of a single payment for welfare for the aged and moved towards approval of the bill. It is not a new method to patch up the situation by spreading money and valuables, rather than by inserting welfare values into the technical scheme of the tax system.

Such a political method will decrease without limit the tense relationship between political power and individuals. Today it is said again that administrative reform and the decentralization of power are the subject of politics. Primarily this means political battles against administrative bureaucracy. The establishment of political superiority over the bureaucracy has been discussed repeatedly. However, the bureaucracy has not been growing as it desired. Rather, we need to reflect that some kind of political guidance has promoted it. In postwar Japanese politics, various movements for "the realization of many demands," holding over their heads various principles which the Constitution provides, have been seen. Looking from the side which had started the movements, the realization was nothing but a "victory." However, I wonder if the bureaucracy which accepted the demands was defeated. Not at all a "defeat," but the bureaucracy also had a "victory." Because they obtained the budget and the personnel for developing these new enterprises and furthermore, by using these, they became able to control even those people who had started the movements. Looking less enthusiastically, it was a kind of "lovers' quarrel" between the demanding side and the bureaucracy.

Politics by narrow thinking has been developed without paying attention to the existence of one kind of this paradoxical relationship. On the contrary, there still are "reformist" publicists who say openly that "the social right is the right to ask the nation for money." As narrow politics develops more, being supported by the opinion which leaves a trail of such destitution theory, democracy becomes more like a right to draw out money from the nation, and the tension in the relationship between the nation and the citizens decreases. There is no way to realize the superiority of politics against the bureaucracy.

If political guidance clouds the perception of its main role in politics which shoulders democracy for the people, interest in settling disputes revolving around international human rights also cannot avoid decreasing. The argument that the Japanese people have not realized the importance of their own presence in international society has been brought up many times. However, politics depending only on posters could not make clear that the thing which is situated in the core of systemizing actual meaningful rights lies in the establishment of the right of "self-determination." If this is so, they cannot free themselves from bureaucratic paternalism and do not have to wonder about their own presence.

The words "liberal," "social democratic," or "social democratic liberal" are freely used, but if it is aiming for the creation of power based on citizens' independence and a society which is full of tension, their own political guidance must not neglect efforts to constantly examine if it is possible to create a type of people who will think that the right of "self-determination" is the core of democratic politics.

On the other hand, in Japanese politics today, there appeared a group which appealed strongly with the politics of broad thinking at least against the outside world, leaving the split situation of narrow thinking and broad thinking as it is. It is the group which hoists becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, or tries to impress Japan's political presence by sending the national armed forces, the Self-Defense Forces, to the international disputes, adapting to circumstances. At a glance, it looks like it is new, but we cannot say that it is effective in solving problems in the very complicated international society such as human rights, the environment, economic gaps, or the uneven distribution of international public property. In general, as long as this line is pushed, as the two military police of the postwar world, the United States and the Soviet Union, showed, it will be very costly. One has become destitute and the other has become extinct. but for Japan in which an unlimited industrial hollowing out is progressing, the burden of the cost is unbearable. When thinking over this line a little calmly, it is very clear that it is only a "technique of destruction," far from politics as a "technique of creation." We must question the responsibility of the mass media which deliberately treated the speech and behavior of such a political group as a big thing, and submitted a "tentative plan for constitutional reform" as its advance guard.

In any case, what must be done towards the improvement of the intellectual productivity of politics is an examination and reconstruction of the systems and policies which cannot be sustained under thinking split into the two poles of broad thinking and narrow thinking. What is lacking from both political groups is the development of concrete work towards this.

Asking the Meaning of Political Terms

In Japanese politics these days, along with the parties' new signboard slogans, "internationalization," "decentralization," and "aging" are flying around as problem perception terminology. When one selects and applies several indexes, these words show that this era is indeed in upheaval. And it is also clear to anyone that the existing systems and policies can no longer cope because they were designed long before the upheaval. But the problem is that the common perception stops here and does not go on to consider how to construct new systems and policies under what kind of thinking.

Now many people easily say "internationalization." But the meaning that most concerns the basis of Japanese politics and economics is that the global market is being formed along with the collapse of the cold war structure between the United States and the Soviet Union. Assuming the basic framework of the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, Japan, which pursued a catch-up type modernization under the U.S. military umbrella, not only has been excluding price adjustment during this process, but also has been strengthening a market which has been controlled by the

bureaucracy. If Japan still tries to maintain a certain economic level in the formation of the global market, it must shift to the "open political economic system" in the true sense. The easing of regulations, which is even called the "destruction of regulations," is inevitable. Agricultural subsidies which neglect price adjustment and the government's control over agricultural products' supply must be denied. Japan must shift to a political economic system which guarantees market competition. Therefore, markets which were controlled by the bureaucracy need to be changed to markets which are based on the principle of self-responsibility, and this is an unavoidable subject for politics, and politics which promotes the growth of the bureaucracy by narrow thinking can no longer be allowed.

However, the problem is that even though the principle of competition guarantees that everybody is equal at the start, it does not guarantee the equality of results and puts this as a matter of self-responsibility. Then, should "protection" by politics and the government be added with a guarantee on the equality of results as a justification? Then it will not be any better than before and the political economic system will not be reformed at all. Building a system that secures equality at the start and at the same time aims to minimize the inequality of the result, being based on citizens' independence, will be the issue.

Here, "decentralization" will be the basic point of view. Ensuring transparent administration, guaranteeing the right to object, and guaranteeing open information must be systemized under the government system by thorough decentralization. By this, the barbarism of unequal opportunity can be controlled. And, the political problem of aging is not only a problem of completing the decentralized system of health insurance, welfare, and medical care for the aged, but promoting work style reform should be concentrated on. For fields which the enterprise sector cannot cover, if a movement by NPO's [nonprofit organizations] which can be called a "citizen's sector" being based on a decentralized system is promoted, a change in the work style will be naturally created there and at the same time there will be a way to minimize the inequality of results, which is different from "protection" by the government.

The route from this international environmental condition to domestic political administrative system reform must be followed at the same time as the route from domestic environmental change to international environmental reform. Now, every area in this country is closely related to the international society. The concept of nation-state has been shaken and localization of the international society is becoming more and more conspicuous. Under such circumstances, the establishment of hegemony by a sovereign nation with military strength as a background is itself an anachronism. Formation of an international network which has decentralized local government as a basic unit is called for. In other words, a diplomacy based on international networks by self-government and citizens is needed more than one by the

central government. Also, the aged people who have supported Japan's growth as technicians will be able to obtain new lively working opportunities. If this route is followed, the irrationality of the basic system which has supported the catching-up type modernization will be even clearer.

However, in the political world, there are always groups that try to maintain existing systems using new problem terminology. In the FY 1993 third revised budget and the 1994 budget, "meddlesome" agricultural subsidies were newly established more than ever with the justification of "improving the domestic agricultural productivity to cope with the free rice market." The political group that promoted this is typical. Or, as I already mentioned several times, there also exists a group which appeals with complete equal opportunity as a domestic economic system and on the other hand pursues hegemony as a sovereign nation. And this group aims for an improvement of the nation's external mobility and discusses "decentralization" and "aging" and earnestly points to cutting authority from the center without tax and financial system reform.

The problem terminology that politics uses will persuade many people as is. However, the problem is in what kind of context this problem terminology is used. Whether political intellectual productivity is high or not depends on whether they can make the opponent's terminology clear by mutually examining the context, even though using the same terms. As I already stated, this necessity was not realized during the LDP government. In this meaning, politics which clearly showed political points of contention almost did not exist at all.

Political groups which were divided variously facing the collapse of the LDP system should stop clinging to an empty "play on terminology" and "election coalition." In order to get out of the chaotic situation and to grow into a government party, they should construct systems and policies coping with the problems of "internationalization," "decentralization," and "aging," with establishment of the citizens' right of "self-determination" as an axis. The group which has the will and the zest to accomplish this is the "reformists," and all the others are only "conservatives."

North Korea

U.S. Urged To Abandon 'Military Pressure'

SK0104033495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1225 GMT 31 Mar 95

[Unattributed talk: "Reckless Commotion of Military Pressure"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. commotion of military pressure against us has become all the more undisguised. The U.S. plan to wage a new military exercise within two months to fill the vacuum left by the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise is linked to this.

As is well known to everyone, the Team Spirit joint military exercise waged by the United States along with the South Korean puppets, mobilizing large armed forces of aggression, was a preliminary war and practice nuclear war against us. It was aimed at militarily stifling [kunsajoguro apsal] us.

Whenever the Team Spirit joint military exercise was waged, an extremely tense situation, and at any rate the danger of a war hazard erupting, was created on the Korean peninsula [team spirit haptong kunsa hullyoni porojil ttaemada choson pandoenun kuktoro kinjanghan chongsega chosongdoego immuiui sigage chonjaengui pulchibi tojilsu innun wihomi chosongdoegon hayotta]. It threatened peace in Asia and the world. This is why the peace-loving people of the world strongly denounced and opposed the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The United States is now planning to wage a new military exercise to fill the vacuum left by the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise. In fact, this is no different since it is going to repeat the Team Spirit joint military exercise. It has become clear who the ringleader is that aggravates tensions and creates war dangers on the Korean peninsula.

All this shows that the U.S. scheme to stifle us by military force [uriul kunsajok himuro apsal haryonun migugui kido] has never changed. Instead, it has entered a more dangerous phase as days go by. Linked to the U.S. aim to militarily stifle [kunsajoguro apsal] us is: the United States has turned the plan for a phased reduction of U.S. occupation forces in South Korea to nothing, has continuously increased military equipment in South Korea, and is discussing its intervention in a war in Korea, giving first priority to collecting information on our country.

To this aim, the United States is even infringing upon the spirit of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework. The DPRK-U.S. agreed framework specifies that the United States shall neither use nuclear nor threaten us with nuclear weapons. That is, the United States promised not to threaten us militarily.

All military training that the United States has waged in South Korea so far was, without exception, war exercises in which many nuclear weapons were mobilized. The new military exercise planned by the United States is not an unusual case.

We cannot help but be alert to the possibility that the United States, which is engaged in an anti-Republic military commotion even while infringing upon the spirit of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework when we have entered a stage of its implementation, will create an unexpected and grave situation [urinun chomi kibon habuimuni ihaengdangyee innunttaee kujongsinul chit-palbumyonsokkaji pangonghwaguk kunsajok sodongul porigoinnun migugi kuotton yechukhalsudo omnun omjunghan sataerul moraolsudo ittanunde taehae kaksongikke taehaji anulsu opta].

Military pressure is not almighty. Although the United States is constantly trying to militarily stifle [kunsa-joguro apsal] us, it is a vain attempt. Military pressure will not work with us. The United States must stop its bellicose maneuver to stifle us by force.

Radio Reports Intensive U.S. 'Aerial Espionage'

SK0304024695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to military sources, the U.S. imperialist war maniacs conducted intensive aerial espionage on the northern half of the Republic in March. At 0820 on 30 March [2320 GMT on 29 Mar], an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance aircraft, which took off from an overseas base to the skies above South Korea, made an hour-long flight across the east and west of Korea along the sky above the Military Demarcation Line, running amok in electronic and photographing espionage on the entire area of the northern half of the Republic.

Prior to this at 0815 on 29 March, a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance aircraft made an hour-long shuttle flight between the skies above the Korean West Sea near Sosan Peninsula and the Korean East Sea [Sea of Japan] near Sokcho along the Military Demarcation Line, wildly engaging in photographing and electronic espionage on objects deep in our side's strategic areas. This reconnaissance aircraft conducted espionage on 36 occasions in March as of 29 March.

The U.S. imperialists conducted aerial espionage on the northern half of the Republic over 210 times in March as of 30 March, intensively deploying various strategic and tactical reconnaissance aircraft, including RC-135 strategic reconnaissance aircraft, U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance aircraft, and E-3 early warning aircraft. This plainly reveals that the maneuver of northward aggression by the U.S. imperialist war maniacs has reached a dangerous level.

KCNA on U-2 Reconnaissance Mission SK0104044995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Premeditated Aerial Espionage"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on Friday [31 March] infiltrated a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane deep into the territorial airspace of the DPRK above the East Sea on a mission of aerial photographing and electronic reconnaissance on the overall areas of the DPRK including the coastal ones.

We cannot but take a serious view of this military provocation as it coincides with the infiltration of the enemy's naval combat ships deep into the territorial waters of the DPRK and the frantic war exercises against the North in the forefront area.

In March, they committed aerial espionage on the DPRK with various types of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes on more than 210 occasions by March 30.

The bellicose U.S. imperialists must act with discretion, mindful of the grave consequences of the aggravation of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Students Urge Kim To Accept Rent for U.S. Bases SK0104111595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—An estimated 800 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) met at Tankuk University on March 30 to resolve to secure educational funds before going over to a demonstration against the flunkeyist treacherous act of the traitor Kim Yong-sam, a Seoul-based radio reported.

At the rally and demonstration, the students urged the traitor Kim Yong-sam to secure educational funds by accepting the rent for the U.S. military bases in South Korea and paring down military spendings.

Then, they took to a street and staged a six-hour demonstration, clashing with the riot police standing in their way.

Committee Urges U.S. To Respond to Peace Pact SK0104112295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)— The International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea published the March issue of its bulletin on March 23.

In an article titled "New Peace Mechanism Must Be Established Immediately on Korean Peninsula" the bulletin urged the United States to respond to the DPRKproposed conclusion of a peace agreement without delay.

The United States has systematically abrogated the provisions of the Armistice Agreement and paralysed the function of the armistice supervisory body by keeping its forces over 40,000 strong in South Korea and introducing nuclear and other lethal weapons there, the bulletin said.

The United States, a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement, cannot escape from the blame for its abuse of the name of the United Nations, said the bulletin, adding that South Korea has no qualification and capacity to be involved in the conclusion of a peace agreement.

Monthly Cited on U.S. Visitor's Impressions SK0304102195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The March issue of the South Korean magazine MAL carried the impressions of Pyongyang by Rev. Chong Ki-yol, vice-chairman of the Washington Union for National Movement in the United States.

He in his impressions referred to the indomitable spirit of the Korean people firmly united as one around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

While visiting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in December 1994, he said, I realized how deep the Korean people's confidence in their society and life is and how high their national pride is.

Though President Kim Il-song passed away, they were not wavered at all, but united still closer around the leader, he said.

The U.S. and South Korean media made much ado about the incident of a shot down U.S. helicopter almost every day at that time, but the northern half of Korea was in a mood which had nothing to do with it, he said.

As regards the U.S. political and military threat and blackmail, the DPRK stated that it would not allow any force to invade its territory, sky and sea even an inch to infringe upon the sovereignty at all, he said.

"As far as I know, the United States as a military and economic superpower never left alone any forces going against with its grain. But toward the DPRK, it did not commit such impudent acts as it did toward third world countries," he added.

Reaction to Kim Yong-sam's 'Warning' to North SK0204082795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 2 Apr 95

["Provocative 'Measure for Punishment""—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)— The South Korean puppets at a "meeting of the ruling party and the government on unification diplomacy" March 30 "agreed to take a measure to punish" the North, according to a radio report from Seoul.

We cannot but take a serious view of this because it came after the traitor Kim Yong-sam's recent visits to the puppet military, naval and airforce academies, where he made provocative remarks such as "punishment" and "warning," slandering the North over the implementation of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States.

The puppets are crying out for "measure of punishment," claiming that the North does not implement the agreement with the United States, but this is a crafty ruse to conceal their plot against the agreement.

Though the Kim Yong-sam group, crying for "punishment," schemes to do harm to the North, it is a foolish attempt.

If the South Korean warmaniacs unleash another war, it will result in their destruction.

A news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The Kim Yong-sam group's "decision to take a measure to punish the North" is tantamount to an overt declaration of war against the North.

We cannot overlook it. We cherish peace, but will never allow anybody to trample on our socialist system, our territory, sky and sea and even any tree and grass of our country.

If the Kim Yong-sam group dares unleash a war against the North, we will answer it with a thousand-fold retaliatory strike.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON today warns that if the Kim Yong- sam group takes the line of military provocation, ignoring our warning, it will be exterminated.

Paper Denounces ROK Nuclear Waste Dump Plan

SK0304045295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 3 Apr 95

["Traitorous Group Using Nuclear Waste Dump for Sinister Political Purpose"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The South Korean puppets made public a decision to build a nuclear waste dump in Kurop Islet in defiance of the denunciation by the fellow countrymen.

Commenting on this NODONG SINMUN analyst on Sunday says:

This is a criminal act to threaten existence of the Korean nation and a premeditated provocation to bring the North-South relations to the extreme catastrophe.

Lurking behind the designation of Kurop Islet as a waste dump by the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique without any scientific and technical calculation is a heinous political purpose.

By building a nuclear waste dump in Kurop Islet within the calling distance from the North they intend to bring the North-South confrontation to the worst pitch at present, and to inflict radioactivity damages upon the people in the South and the North of Korea.

Though they talk about "resumption of dialogue", the Kim Yong-sam group are trying to further aggravate the North-South relations and create an obstacle to the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement. On this occasion they are going to lead the situation to an international pressure on the north. The announcement of Kurop Islet as "a place suitable" for a nuclear waste dump is "second nuclear clamour" to make a new crackup in the North-South relations.

It is also aimed at taking a favourable position in the forthcoming "local autonomous elections."

Kim Yong-sam group are, indeed, political charlatans who are indifferent to the existence of the country and the nation and are pursuing only their filthy political ambition.

If the Kim Yong-sam group persistently build their nuclear waste dump in Kurop Islet with a dishonest purpose defying our repeated warnings and the South Korean people's protest, we will take a strong countermeasure against it.

French Arms Sales to South Criticized

SK0304105595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 3 Apr 95

["France Must Immediately Stop Arms Sales to S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—Arms sales of France and other West European countries to the South Korean puppets are getting all the more undisguised as the days go by.

France's tieup with the South Korean puppets through arms sales is a mucky act and an unpardonable criminal behaviour to aggravate the tensions on the Korean peninsula and incite North-South confrontation so as to gain its economic interests.

As already reported, France sold over 190 Mistral seato-air missiles to South Korea last year and plans to sell frigate commanding and launching equipment to the tune of about 400 million U.S. dollars in the coming ten years.

It reportedly held an "annual conference" with the puppets to increase the scope of cooperation in munitions industry and promised a "follow-up military aid" to them.

This clearly indicates that France's arms sales to South Korea are up under a plan to reach a very dangerous stage.

What draws serious attention is that France's arms sales to South Korea are being further increased at a time when the South Korean warmaniacs are leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to a critical phase by obstructing the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement and declaring a total confrontation between the North and the South.

It is clear that missiles and other sophisticated mass destruction weapons sold to South Korea by France will be used by the South Korean warmaniacs in a war against the North.

From this point of view, France's arms sales pose, in the final analysis, a grave military threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The wrongdoing of France is not accidental at all.

In the past France called more than once for "sanctions" to isolate and stifle our Republic, dancing to the tune of the South Korean puppets over the fiction of our "nuclear issue".

Most recently, it joined the puppets in obstructing the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, claiming that the resumption of the North-South dialogue should be a "condition" for the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreement.

Lurking behind the rash act of France is a sinister intention to give rise to military conflicts in the Northeast Asian region including the Korean peninsula and to catch fish in troubled water through massive sales of destruction military hardware.

For such economic interests, France is intensifying arms sales to South Korea.

Its arms sales encouraging the South Korean warmaniacs to a war to bring holocaust to the fellow countrymen will face the denunciation by the unbiased public opinion.

If France and other West European countries persist in their arms sales to South Korea, turning their back on the situation on the Korean peninsula, it will be as good as pouring oil on the fire, and accordingly, their Asia policies will result in a total failure.

They must be clearly aware of the ensuing grave consequences and immediately stop arms sales to South Korea.

NDFSK Denounces Kim Yong-sam Group's 'Crime'

SK0204084495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea [NDFSK] issued a statement on March 25 denouncing the antiethical crime committed once again recently by the Kim Yong-sam group regarding last year's misfortune of the fellow countrymen, according to the Seoul-based Voice of National Salvation.

The statement said:

The chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation Kim Tae-chung, in a lecture on March 22 said the responding attitude of the "government" toward the issue of mourning was "wrong" and urged the South Korean authorities to take an appropriate measure, though belatedly, to improve inter-Korean relations. This was the expression of his will to iron out the worsening South-North relations, as well as a reflection of popular sentiments throughout South Korea and public opinion at home and abroad.

The Kim Yong-sam group devoid of elementary ethics and morality and the willingness for reunification is running mad to heap abuses on Kim Tae-chung.

The "minister of the Unification Board" and the spokesman of the "Democratic Liberal Party" argued that no expression of condolence was a proper measure.

The NDFSK, together with patriotic people of all walks of life, views the beastly outrage of the Kim Yong-sam group as a direct challenge to the wish of the South Korean people and a declaration of acute confrontation driving the South-North relations to a catastrophic phase and vehemently denounces it with surging national resentment.

As a partner of the dialogue, the Kim Yong-sam group should have expressed mournings over the misfortune of the North before anybody else. But, wretchedly enough, he declared "emergency orders" one after another to the whole Army, police and civil servants and committed such a beastly crime as wielding the sword against the people who were expressing mournings. As a result, the South-North relations were frozen and driven back to the phase of confrontation.

Far from atoning for it, though belatedly, the Kim Yong-sam group committed treason once again by sticking to the anachronistic move of confrontation.

The statement stressed that the South Korean people should rise in struggle to sternly punish and topple the Kim Yong-sam group for inter-Korean reconciliation and unity and reunification.

Haeju Working People Condemn Kim Yong-sam Acts

SK0304050895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—Working people in Haeju, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, met on Sunday [2 April] to vehemently denounce the anti-ethical, anti-national barbarous act of the traitor Kim Yong-sam to justify his anti-ethical attitude toward the last year's misfortune of the North by claiming that it was a "proper step".

Choe Hong-ju, chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial Administrative and Economic Committee, and other speakers representing broad segments of the people, told the meeting that the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique issued an "emergency alert order" against the fellow countrymen in deep sorrow and launched a wholesale search to arrest the South Korean students and public figures who wanted to express condolences over the misfortune of the nation and committed again a high treason by trying to justify its crimes. This proved again that it has no will for dialogue with the fellow countrymen but an ulterior intention to seek hostile and anti-national stance against the North, they said.

With the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who is running amuck to slay the fellow countrymen in the North with the backing of foreign forces and persistently seeking confrontation, left alone it is impossible to achieve national reunification and keep alive the beautiful manners and customs peculiar to the Korean nation, the speakers said, adding that the South Korean students and people of all walks of life should more courageously fight to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique and set up an independent, democratic government in South Korea.

They called upon the fellow countrymen to turn out as one in the great struggle for national reunification, convinced that they will certainly achieve the country's reunification under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Attempts 'To Suppress' Kim Tae-chung Decried SK0104043995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Last-Ditch Effort Precipitates Self-Destruction"— KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—Yi Chun-ku, chairman of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) of South Korea, on March 28 criticised Kim Tae-chung, director general of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, and the Democratic Party concerning the issue of expression of condolences and the issue of revision or abolition of the "National Security Law," and threatened them with "severe judgment."

He was speaking at a meeting to reorganise the Taejon branch of the "DLP."

A news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

This revealed the criminal scheme of the Kim Yong-sam group to suppress those who gave it reasonable advice and the opposition party, by branding them as forces "sympathizing with the North" and their activities as "anti-state action."

The Kim Yong-sam group's vicious attitude against fellow countrymen is incompatible with national reconciliation and North-South dialogue.

Although the Kim Yong-sam group calls for "resumption of dialogue" these days, it is nothing but a hypocrisy and lie.

The Kim Yong-sam group is in a hopeless crisis, forsaken by the people for the crimes it has committed against the nation over the past two years since it took office.

The Kim Yong-sam group, which stoops to any infamy to gratify its greed for power, schemes to use the issue of expression of condolences in doing harm to the opposition forces, by branding their position as "different in colour." The arch-traitor Kim Yong-sam and his group are making the last-ditch effort, which will, however, precipitate their own destruction.

Opposition Party Leader Criticizes ROK Government

SK0104044195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The president of the South Korean opposition Democratic Party, Yi Ki-taek, charged that the "South-North relations have been running worse than the past due to the unprincipled policy towards the north", urging that the "government' should lay a ground for new South-North relations this year, free from the Cold-War policy," a radio report from Seoul said.

At a forum held in Seoul on March 30, he said that "There must be a severe judgement by the people at the 'local autonomous bodies election' due in June to make a re-judgement of the present regime." Noting "there have been repeated confusion and crisis of the overall state policy because of the wrong consciousness of history and ruling philosophy of the present regime no in office over two years", he denounced the "globalization" plan set forth some time ago by the "government" as another slogan of policy for propaganda to appease public opinion."

'Outrageous Step' Against ROK Student Decried SK0104043395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group, some time ago, passed the sentence of five-year imprisonment and three-year suspension of qualification on student Yang Tong-hun, former chairman of the Kwangju, South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils (Namchongnyon) and chairman of the Committee for the Country's Reunification of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), on the charge of violating the ill-famed "National Security Law", a Seoul-based radio reported.

The Kim Yong-sam group has taken such an outrageous step after arresting and persecuting him for the mere reason that he stood at the head of the struggle of students for national reunification and democracy against fascism.

This is part of the suppressive moves on the chiefs of student organizations launched by the Kim Yong-sam group to check the students' struggle for independence, democracy and reunification that is expected to grow fiercer this year.

The fact shows that the Kim Yong-sam group are, indeed, the "civilian" fascists who dislike the reunification of the country and the unity of the nation.

Japanese Authorities Hail Talks Resumption

SK0104050695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Yohei Kono, on March 30, reportedly said at a press conference that he welcomed the adoption of the agreement for resumption of DPRK-Japan talks between the Workers' Party of Korea and the three ruling coalition parties of Japan for the normalization of diplomatic relations.

Noting that he hopes talks will be resumed as soon as possible, he said the Japanese Government intends to resume the talks on the heels of the completion of preparations by both sides.

He said, with the adoption of the agreement, an occasion has been made for the resumption of the talks for normalization of diplomatic relations.

On the same day, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi at a press conference said the Japanese Government welcomes the adoption of the agreement for the resumption of DPRK-Japan talks.

Radio Cites Japanese Officials

SK3103142795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, in a news conference on 30 March, Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said that he welcomes the adoption of the agreement between the Workers' Party of Korea and the three ruling coalition parties of Japan on the resumption of Japan-DPRK talks for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Saying that he hopes that the talks will start as soon as possible [toelsurog ppalli sijak toegirul paranda], he pointed out that the Japanese Government intends to resume talks as soon as the two sides complete preparatory works. He said that with the adoption of the agreement, an occasion is provided for the resumption of talks for establishing diplomatic relations.

In a news conference on the same day, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi also said that the Japanese Government welcomes the adoption of the agreement on the resumption of Japan-DPRK talks.

PRC Spokesman on Resumptin of DPRK-Japan Talks

SK0104050195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, March 30 [date as received] (KCNA)—Chen Chian, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a weekly news briefing today

referred to the issue of resumption of talks between the DPRK and Japan for normalisation of diplomatic relations.

He is happy that the DPRK and Japan have decided to resume talks for normalisation of diplomatic relations, he said, expressing welcome to it.

He said normalisation of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan is beneficial to peace and stability in the two countries and in the Asia-Pacific region.

Kim Yong-sun, Japanese Delegation at Performance

SK0204012095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation of the three ruling coalition parties from Japan watched a performance of the national folk dance suite "Song of Seasons" at the Mansudae Art Theater on 28 March.

The members and suite of the delegation of Japan's three ruling coalition parties, as well as clerks and officials at the Foreign Ministry, were invited to the performance.

Secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Kim Yong-sun, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Reunification Policy Committee and chairman of the Korean Committee for Peace in Asia and the Pacific; functionaries concerned; and working people in the city saw the performance.

The audience applauded the performance because of the performers' high level of artistic excellence.

Japan Said Secretly Transporting Nuclear Waste SK0204090495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0833 GMT 2 Apr 95

["Criminal Act Which Will Entail Grave Consequence"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)— Japan is now sailing a transport ship loaded with about 13.7 tons of high radioactive waste in conspiracy with France and Britain, keeping its chart in the dark.

The nuclear transport with a great potential danger is an encroachment upon the principle of guaranteeing the transparency of nuclear activities, NODONG SINMUN says in a signed commentary today.

The analyst points out:

Japan which has already hidden a huge amount of plutonium is seeking a sinister intention by carrying the nuclear substance in secrecy.

That is why Japan is trampling underfoot the principle of guaranteeing the transparency of nuclear activities.

Japan announced that it plans to carry dozens of tons of nuclear substance on 18 occasions in the coming ten years. If Japan continues transporting nuclear substance in secrecy and some countries conspire with it, it will lead to the breakdown of the principles of international nuclear non-proliferation and guarantee of nuclear transparency and bring about grave consequence to the implementation of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty].

Japan must ponder over the consequences of the illegal nuclear transport and inform the public of the chart of the nuclear waste-loaded transport ship before it is too late.

Koreans in Japan Group Criticizes Kim Yong-sam SK0104110795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, March 30 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification issued a statement today denouncing the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group's anti-national attitude towards the remarks of Kim Taechung, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, that "the attitude of the government toward the issue of expression of condolences was wrong" and the South Korean authorities "should take appropriate measures for the sake of dispelling misunderstanding" before it is too late.

The statement says:

The Kim Yong-sam group is trying to justify its antiethical, anti-national act, describing it as a "proper measure."

The Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification bitterly denounces with surging national resentment the Kim Yong-sam group for remaining hostile to the DPRK, driving the North-South relations to a catastrophic phase and laying graver obstacles to national reconciliation and reunification.

The Koreans at home and abroad unanimously hope that national reconciliation and unity will be achieved this year, the 50th anniversary of national liberation, and a turning point be brought about for national reunification in the 1990s. They will never pardon the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique which regards fellow countrymen as enemy and runs against the will and demand of the entire nation, in collusion with foreign forces.

The Kim Yong-sam clique like the preceding traitors to the nation will be severely judged by history and the nation. Korea will be reunified by concerted efforts of the Koreans.

Korean Students in Japan at Kim Il-song Statue SK0204084395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0817 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)— The home-visiting group of Korean students in Japan headed by Yom Hwa-son, staying in the socialist motherland, called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on March 31, to express boundless reverence for him.

The members of the group laid a floral basket and bouquets before the statue of the great leader and made a bow.

The head of the group, Yom Hwa-son, said he will devote his all to carrying to accomplishment through generations the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the fatherly leader, upholding the ever-victorious leadership of dear General Kim Chong-il.

On the same day, the sports group of Korean students in Japan led by Ha Sang-hyon visited the statue of the fatherly leader on Mansu Hill and laid bouquets of flowers, and made a bow.

Chinese Guests Visit Kim Il-song's Statue

SK0304111095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—A delegation of Jilin University of China headed by Liu Zhongshu, secretary of the party committee of the University, and a delegation of the Institute of Korean Affairs of Yanbian University of China led by Tong Mun-ho visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang, laid bouquets of flowers before the statue and made a bow on April 2.

Liu Zhongshu said that he highly respected the great president with special feelings and expressed his belief that the Korean people would successfully accomplish the socialist cause under the leadership of respected General Kim Chong-il.

Tong Mun-ho noted that he has special respect for the great Comrade Kim Il-song as he lives in the place where the great leader waged a revolutionary struggle.

He hoped the Korean people will achieve greater success in socialist construction firmly united around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The delegations arrived here Sunday by train.

Chinese Art Troupe Performs at Nampo Theater SK0104111895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020

GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—A Chinese art troupe, staying in Korea to participate in the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, gave a performance at the Nampo Theatre on Friday.

The performers sang with deep reverence for the respected leader President Kim II-song the Korean songs "We Long for the Bright Smile as Sunbeams" and "Where Are You, Dear General", a song from the revolutionary opera "A True Daughter of the Party".

And they earnestly sang "Our General is Best" and other Korean songs the Korean people like, capturing the house.

Put on the stage were also the Korean dance "In a Spring" and Chinese songs and dances.

The performance ended with the song and dance "Song of Sino-Korean Friendship".

PRC Officials Watch Film on Kim Il-song

SK0204020095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's birthday, the film "1994 of His Great Life" was shown at the DPRK Embassy in the PRC from 22 to 24 March.

Exhibited in the film's showing room were photographs showing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il giving on-the-spot guidance to various sectors of the national economy and to units of the Korean People's Army.

Present at the film show were Zhou Ziyu, deputy director of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [PLA] General Political Department; the deputy director of the PLA General Staff Headquarters General Office; functionaries of the trade sector of the PRC; functionaries at the State Education Commission, the Science and Technology Committee, and the Academy of Sciences of the PRC, including Zhang Xiaowen, vice minister of the State Education Commission; and professors from Beijing and Qinghua Universities.

After seeing the film, Vice Minister Zhang Ziaowen stated: I was very affected by the film, which is of historic significance. Respected Comrade Kim Il-song devoted all he had for the DPRK people's happiness until the last moment of his life. I believe the DPRK people will build their country more beautifully and excellently under the leadership of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Deputy Director Zhou Ziyu stated that respected President Kim II- song was a great leader respected not only by the DPRK people but also by the Chinese people. He stressed that the future of the DPRK is bright because of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The participants in the film show looked at the photographs exhibited in the room.

Functions Marking 15 Apr Held Abroad

SK0204081895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)— Functions marking the birth anniversary (April 15) of the great leader President Kim II-song were held in different countries. The Korean film "Great Life in 1994" was shown at the National Committee of the National Movement of the Genuine Lumumbist Combatants in Zaire, the Moscow Youth Association for the Study of the Chuche Idea and the political school under the secretariat of the National Resistance Movement of Uganda.

The film was seen by political, public and academic figures.

Otete Gaston Mboyo [name as received], national chairman of the National Movement of the Genuine Lumumbist Combatants in Zaire, after seeing the film, said:

"The whole life of the great leader President Kim Il-song is the history of struggle of a revolutionary who fought for the liberation of the country and the nation's sovereignty, the history of 'Believing in the People as in Heaven' in which his all was devoted for the victory of socialism and the wellbeing of the people and a life associated with patriotism and all-embracing politics with which he made tireless efforts to reunify the divided country peacefully.

"Though President Kim Il-song passed away, the immortal chuche idea created by him and the great achievements made by him are being creditably carried forward by His Excellency Kim Chong-il."

The group for the study of the chuche idea of the Dar-es-Salaam Technical College in Tanzania organised the show of "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Remain Alive in the Hearts of the People", part 1 of the film "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Is Immortal".

And a lecture was given at the Zimbabwean Theory and Practice Centre of Kimilsongism, under the subject "Comrade Kim Il-song Will Be Immortal Along With Humankind".

Kim Il-song's Biography Reported Abroad

SK0204081295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0803 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Radio Santarosa of Peru reported the brief biography of the great leader President Kim II-song.

The radio added that President Kim Il-song's life was the life of a prominent leader who made an immortal contribution to the cause of human emancipation under the banner of socialism, the banner of anti-imperialism and independence.

Although he passed away, his revolutionary achievements, his august name and noble personality will remain in the heart of the world progressive humankind forever.

National radio and the newspaper KAIETEUR WORLD of Guyana reported his brief biography.

A recent issue of "TOWARD SOCIALISM," the organ of the All-India Progressive Front, carried a brief history of the revolutionary activities of President Kim II-song.

Kim Il-song's Birth Anniversary Marked Overseas

SK0104112095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)— The birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song is being observed in foreign countries.

Meetings were held in Harare and Lagos and at the Central Museum of the Russian Armed Forces.

The reporters and speakers said the great leader's august name, immortal exploits and noble personality will be alive in the hearts of the progressive people of the world forever.

The Korean film "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song is Immortal" showed in Lima and at the Ghana Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology.

Foreign papers published articles to mark the anniversary.

The Russian paper ISTOKI No. 2 devoted three pages to a special writeup.

It carried his reminiscences "With the Century" and articles titled "Eternal and Living Paragon for Humanity" and "He Is Immortal" as well as his portrait.

The March 24 edition of the Indian paper SAMACHAR POST in an article headlined "Brilliant Life of People's Leader" said the life of His Excellency Kim Il-song coinciding with the 20th century which witnessed unprecedented changes in the world's history of politics was a great life of the people's leader, who successfully carried into practice the philosophy of believing in the people as in heaven.

Mongolian Committee Formed To Mark 15 Apr SK0304044295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The Mongolian Preparatory Committee for Commemorating the 83rd Birth Anniversary of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song was inaugurated in Ulaanbaatar on March 28.

The chairman of the Mongolia-Korea Friendship Association was elected the chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

The working plan from March 28 to April 20 was published at the meeting.

Kim Il-song's Works Disseminated Overseas

SK0304110695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—Famous works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries.

A seminar on "Answers To Questions Raised by the General Director of the Latin American News Agency PRENSA LATINA" was held at the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea.

Tara Bhusan Mukherjee, president of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea, said in his report:

"His excellency respected Kim II-song is the greatest leader of the working masses and a genius of humankind who has made the brilliant immortal exploits in the history in the whole course of the protracted and arduous revolution.

"His excellency the great Kim Il-song, the most distinguished thinker and theoretician of our era, completely consummated, through his original ideological and theoretical activities, the revolutionary doctrine to realise the independence of the popular masses.

"With intense loyalty to the cause of humankind for independence, he conducted energetic activities all his life for the victory of the socialist cause as a whole and strengthening and development of the Non-Aligned Movement, for global peace and friendship and solidarity among peoples. Thus he exalted the international position and prestige of chuche Korea, making immortal contributions to the cause of human emancipation."

Seminars and lectures on the work "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" were held at the secretariat of state of the agricultural hydraulics of the Frelimo Party, the Indian Youth Group for the Study of Works of Comrade Kim Il-song, the Nigerian national art troupe, Franoson-Mannyon International Company Limited in Nigeria and the cultural centre in Cairo.

Cuba NDFSK Mission Urges Reunification Struggle

SK3103230895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2235 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, March 31 (KCNA)—Pak Kwang-ki, chief of the mission of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) in Cuba, appealed over the International Radio of Havana to the Koreans in the United States to wage a vigorous struggle for reunification in the 90s.

Noting that respected President Kim Il-song had devoted all his tireless efforts and energies to the national reunification until the last moment of his life, he said it is the behests of President Kim Il-song that a reunified country should be handed to the new generation in the present century.

"Respected President Kim II-song in his lifetime put forward the '10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country', clearly showing the way ahead of reunification movement," he said, adding: "The 10-Point Programme gives a comprehensive exposition of the general object and ideological basis of the great national unity and its principle and ways".

"Though respected President Kim II-song passed away to our regret, the reunification in the 90s will surely be achieved when the entire fellow countrymen, true to the president's behests, will carry into effect the 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation holding the sagacious leader Kim Chong-il in high esteem at the head of the nation," he stressed.

Russian Delegation Visits From Khabarovsk

SK0304020095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Khabarovsk Committee of the Russian Scholars Association for Socialism led by Tsaryok, chairman of the committee, visited Mangyongdae, the holy land of the revolution.

At the old home of Mangyongdae, the guests attentively listened to the guide's briefing about the place where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was born, spent his childhood, and nurtured his great will of revolution, then carefully inspected the momentoes preserved in the historical house. The guests posed for a photograph to commemorate their visit to the old home of Mangyongdae before touring the revolutionary historical sites of Mangyong Peak.

After the visit, the leader of the delegation said he could feel the DPRK people's limitless loyalty toward the great leader [suryong] through the old home that is preciously preserved at Mangyongdae. He talked about the importance of well preserving and preciously managing revolutionary historical sites, saying the DPRK people are setting examples in this. He added that when valuable revolutionary historical sites are all being ruined in countries where socialism has collapsed, it is truly significant that revolutionary historical sites are brilliantly preserved and managed in the DPRK.

The guests visited the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace. They said the happy faces of our children make them long for socialism and think about their misfortune of today. They unanimously said that, in this regard, socialism must revive. (Kruskuria Kova), a member of the association, toured the rooms of the string instrument Kayagum team, accordion team, and embroidery team, saying the happy faces of our children, who are blooming their talents to their content, make him think of the misfortune of his six-year-old granddaughter; he could not stop the tears thinking what future is waiting for her. He then said he really envied the socialism of the DPRK.

In concluding the visit, the leader of the delegation wrote on the guests' note: We cannot help being amazed at what we see. We cannot help feeling sad about what we, particularly our children and grandchildren, have lost. We hope the DPRK people will not only adhere to but also develop and enrich socialism without fail.

The delegation also visited the Arch of Triumph, the Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery, the Pyongyang subway, and the People's Grand Study House. The guests enjoyed an art performance by art circle members of the Mangyongdae School Children's Palace.

Military Delegation Off to Indonesia, Malaysia

SK0204090595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—A military delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA], left here today to visit Indonesia and Malaysia.

It was seen off at the airport by Vice Marshals Kim Kwang-chin and Kim Pong-yul and generals and officers of the KPA and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Indonesian Embassy here Syamsudin Sidabutar.

WPK Sends Message to Communist Party of India

SK0304111495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings to the 15th convention of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on April 3.

The message said that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has struggled for peace and socialism against imperialism for many years since its foundation and consistently striven for consolidation of the internationalist cohesion and solidarity of the socialist forces.

The message expressed the belief that the traditional friendship and solidarity between the two parties would continue to strengthen and develop and wished the party great success in the work of the convention.

Central Committee Greets Panamanian Party SK0304110795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of greetings today to the Central Committee of the People's Party of Panama on its 65th founding anniversary.

The message says over the past 60 odd years the People's Party of Panama has waged a just and persistent struggle

to defend the sovereignty of the country and the nation and retake the Panama Canal.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two parties will be further strengthened and developed in the joint struggle for the cause of independence against imperialism, the message wishes the People's Party of Panama greater success in the struggle to strengthen the party and build an independent and peaceful, new Panama.

WPK Delegation Meets With Thai Party Leader

SK0304021395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 29 March, Athit Urairat, head of the Thai Liberal Justice Party, received the delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Hyon Chung-kuk, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, which is visiting Thailand.

During the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to party leader Athit Urairat. The party leader expressed deep gratitude and asked the head of the delegation to convey his sincere greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The party leader said he will make efforts to further develop the friendly relations between the Thai Liberal Justice Party and the WPK, which are developing well. Members of the delegation; the DPRK ambassador to Thailand; the general secretary, deputy party leader, and deputy general secretary of the Thai Liberal Justice Party; and other functionaries concerned were on hand.

Foreign Minister Greets Nigerian Counterpart SK0204084795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Tom Ikimi upon his appointment as foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The message expressed the belief that the excellent friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would continue to develop.

Iranian Ambassador Hosts Party on Founding Day

SK0104051095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—Iranian Ambassador to Korea Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari hosted a party on Friday [31 March] at his embassy on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Present at the party were Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, vice-chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Paek In-chun, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Yi Song-tae, chairman of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee Chong Ha-chol who is chairman of the Korea-Iran Friendship Association and officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged at the party.

Envoy Pays Farewell Call on Malian President

SK0204142795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Ki-han, our country's ambassador to Mali, on 24 March paid a farewell call on Alpha Oumar Konare, the president of this country.

At the talks, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Alpha Oumar Konare.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the president asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Touching on the deep impression he had of his visit to our country, the president said that the respected President Kim Il-song was indeed a great person. He stressed that he greatly trusts and respects the great President Kim Il-song and dear His Excellency Kim Chong-il. He pointed out that Mali treasures the friendly relations with the DPRK.

Ambassador Meets Tunisian President on Departure

SK0304123295 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 March, our country's Ambassador Yi Chin-Kyo paid a farewell call on Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

In the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The president expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings wishing long life to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il is always with the people and is carrying out good policies that meet their will. He said he warmly congratulates that the Korean people are achieving big success in building a new society and in implementing independent foreign policies, being single-heartedly united under the wise leadership of the dear leader His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

The president added that he hopes that the Korean people will peacefully reunify the divided country according to the formula of the confederal system.

IICI Director Visits Kim Il-song Statue

SK0204084195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)— Visiting Director General of the International Institute

of the Chuche Idea [IICI] Shuhachi Inoue called at the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang on March 31, laid a floral basket before it and made a bow.

"President Kim II-song was the father of my sociopolitical integrity," he said, "President Kim II-song remains always in our hearts, together with Comrade Kim Chong-il."

"I solemnly pledge to fulfil my duty as director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea for the global independence and victory of the chuche idea, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song," he stressed.

Foreign Leaders Support Reunification Cause

SK0104225695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2202 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)— The cause of Korean people for national reunification has been supported by the state and party leaders of different countries.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said he hoped Korea would be reunified independently, peacefully and on the principle of great national unity at an early date, when he met the DPRK ambassador to his country on March 26.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Radoje Kontic said he was convinced that the friendly Democratic People's Republic of Korea would emerge victorious without fail in the accomplishment of the just cause under the leadership of his excellency Kim Chong-il, when he met the DPRK ambassador to his country on March 27.

"The Government of Yugoslavia will support the Korean people's effort for national reunification as ever and actively strive to expand and develop the relations between the two countries in all fields," he stated.

General Secretary of the People's Unity Party of Tunisia Mohamed Bel Hadj Amor, when he met the DPRK ambassador to Tunisia, said his party has constantly supported the independent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea for reunification and the principled stand of the DPRK Government on the solution of the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula, and stressed it would actively support them in the future, too.

Daily Views Kim Il-song's Work on Class Education

SK0304045995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 3 Apr 95

["Programmatic Work Brings About Revolutionary Turn in Intensifying Class Education"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— NODONG SINMUN on April 2 carried a by-lined article to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of the famous work "On Intensifying Class Education for Party Members" by the great leader President Kim Il-song on April 1, 1955.

The work is an immortal militant banner which made a big contribution to training all the party members and the working people to be the true communist revolutionaries of chuche type with the firm class consciousness and to successfully carrying on the socialist cause, the article says and goes on:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his work clearly expounded necessity to intensify the class education and basic direction of the class education on a scientific analysis of the realities of the party's ideological work at that time.

The class education should be intensified without fail in order to successfully build socialism under condition in which we were standing against the enemy for a long period and it was stepping up armed invasion moves, infiltrating into us corrupt bourgeois ideology in every deceptive and covered way and engaged in all subversive activities and sabotages.

The basic direction of the class education advanced in the work is to conduct the class education through vivid life and practice of our country, to establish the revolutionary world outlook of the working class among the people, to make them have the conviction in the final victory and to train all members of society to be indomitable revolutionary fighters who are ready to lay down even their lives for the interests of the party and the revolution.

The great leader's policy of class education expounded in the work is the programmatic guideline in conducting the party's ideological in a position of chuche in conformity with practical demand of the revolution and in firmly building the revolutionary forces politically and ideologically so as to dynamically push ahead with the revolution and construction [sentence as received].

With the successful embodiment of the idea and policy advanced in the work in Korea, all the members of society have grown up to be true revolutionaries firmly armed with the class consciousness of the working class.

The Korean people are proud of being revolutionary people firmly adhering to the socialist principle, the working-class principle without any slightest illusion about imperialists and all other class enemies. This is fruition of the great leader's policy of the class education.

The Workers' Party of Korea has continuously raised class awakening of the people by brilliantly applying policy of class education put forward in the work, holding fast to it.

The party, therefore, has firmly defended revolutionary gains and kept continued upsurge in socialist construction in unprecedentedly arduous and complex situation.

Daily Praises Kim Il-song's 'Reminiscences' SK0304102095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 3 Apr 95

["Reminiscences of President Kim Il-song"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— Three years have passed since the first two volumes of the anti-Japanese revolution, Part 1 of "With the Century", reminiscences of the great leader President Kim Il-song, were published. The first five volumes of the anti-Japanese revolution have been brought out.

On this occasion NODONG SINMUN today carries an editorial.

The reminiscences of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an immortal monumental work on the whole life of a peerless great man, a hero's epic, and a wealth of eternal value of our revolution, the editorial says, and goes on:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a distinguished thinker and theoretician, statesman, outstanding military strategist and the people's affectionate father who performed the undying feats for the country and the people, the era and the revolution, pulling through the grim storm of the revolution, with matchless, extraordinary ideological and theoretical intelligence, leadership ability and virtues.

The reminiscences of the great leader vividly describes with very rich content and gem-like sentences the glorious and brilliant revolutionary history of him who led the Korean revolution to victory after victory, shouldering the destiny of the country and the nation along with the 20th century when noteworthy changes took place in the world's political map.

It is a very precious heritage left by the great leader for the country and the nation, the era and the revolution, and a wealth which will shine long through generations. The great leader published the reminiscences, giving the Korean people and the world revolutionary people another precious ideological and mental wealth.

No sooner had the reminiscences been published than it evoked a storm of repercussions on the Korean people and the world revolutionary people for the validity and truth of ideas and theories, rich content and vivid data on history, and it is powerfully encouraging them to a fresh struggle and feats.

Daily Praises Kim Il-song's 'Immortal Exploits' SK0304110595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 3 Apr 95

["Immortal Exploits Which Provide Firm Foundation for Cause of National Reunification and National Independence"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN on April 2 in a by-lined article entitled "Immortal Exploits Which Provide Firm Foundation for Cause of National Reunification and National Independence" stresses that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song performed great exploits in the sacred cause of linking the severed blood vessel of the nation again and achieving national independence nationwide, defining national reunification as the supreme task of the nation from the first days when the country and the nation were divided by foreign forces.

The article says:

The immortal exploits performed by Comrade Kim Il-song in the struggle for the reunification of the country are, first of all, that he indicated a bright future of reunification. He put forward the most just and reasonable principles and ways for national reunification by brilliantly applying the immortal chuche idea.

Comrade Kim Il-song with a scientific penetration into the essence, character and prospect of the problem of reunification advanced the basic policy long ago to achieve the country's reunification independently with the Korean people's own efforts and peacefully and on democratic principle without interference of any foreign forces and clarified the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity by applying it in the new historical situation when dialogue and contact were taking place between the North and the South.

The great leader Comrade Kim II-song expounded the most practical and reasonable way of national reunification by advancing the great principle of the country's reunification through confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, and the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, which are the embodiment of the three principles.

Comrade Kim Il-song's immortal exploits in the struggle for national reunification are also that he laid down the policy of securing an overwhelming upperhand of the reunification forces over the anti-reunification forces and that he wisely led the struggle for its implementation with outstanding and tested leadership.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"The decisive guarantee for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country lies in the achievement of the unity of the whole nation and in strengthening the driving force for reunification."

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song led the cause of national unity to a road of victory with politics of deep love and trust, regarding the idea of "to believe in the people as in heaven," the truth that one can achieve anything and always emerge victorious when one

believes in the united strength of the people and relies on them, as the maxim of life and struggle and the motto of his life.

Comrade Kim II-song personally formulated and published the "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation For the Reunification of the Country" to open the road for independent and peaceful reunification by united strength of the nation and led the nation to implement it.

The historical 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation serves as a torchlight of national unity and a bright beacon of reunification in the 90s as it contains the idea of the great unity of the nation of the great leader who devoted his whole life for national unity, and precious traditions, experience and immortal exploits achieved in the course of its implementation.

Another immortal exploit performed by Comrade Kim Il-song in the struggle for national reunification is that he encouraged all the fellow countrymen in the North, the South and abroad in the nation-wide movement for reunification through his wise guidance of the reunification forces.

Comrade Kim Il-song clarified the most just principles, programs and ways for the reunification of the country and opened the bright road of national reunification by powerfully inspiring all the fellow countrymen in the North, the South and abroad to carry out the cause of national unity and national reunification.

Though the respected leader passed away without seeing the day of the reunification, he provided the firm foundation for the reunification and prosperity of the country by brilliantly solving the problem of carrying forward the cause of national independence.

This is the greatest and most brilliant of the exploits performed by the great leader who devoted his whole life for the accomplishment of the cause of national independence and the most precious property he left to the Korean people.

Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il stands in the van of the struggle of the Korean people for the cause of national reunification and national independence. Comrade Kim Chong-il means Comrade Kim Il-song, and he is the great leader of the nation, who is the same as Comrade Kim Il-song in the hearts of the fellow countrymen and the centre of national unity and a symbol of unfailing victory.

The wise and tested leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who leads the fellow countrymen along the road of national unity and national independence, achieving the singlehearted unity of the country with his all-embracing politics based on love and trust is the firm guarantee to accomplish the cause of national reunification and national independence. Kim Il-song Theses on Reunification Featured SK0104111695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 1 Apr 95

["April Theses Leading to Korean-Style Socialism"— KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—
"Every Effort for the Country's Reunification and Independence and for Socialist Construction in the Northern Half of the Republic," theses on the nature and tasks of our revolution published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in April, 1955 is an encyclopedia of revolution lighting the road to accomplish the country's reunification and to successfully carry out the socialist revolution and socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic, NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article stresses, and goes on:

The great leader in his work deeply proves that the gradual transition to socialism in the northern half of the Republic is an inevitable requirement for development of revolution and fully expounds the stages, a goal, concrete tasks and methods of the Korean people's efforts for socialism.

The work has displayed great vitality in the socialist revolution and socialist construction of the Korean people for the correctness, profundity and perfection of its ideas and theories and shines as an immortal encyclopedia of socialist construction in our time.

The Korean people built man-centered socialism of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliance in national defence with such a great theory of socialist construction as the April theses under the wise guidance of the party and the leader. This is great honour and pride of the Korean people.

Great significance of the theses is that it is an immortal militant banner which has firmly led the Korean people to the road of socialism, that it gives overall answers to theoretical and practical problems in the building of Korean-style socialism by applying the chuche idea and that it has brought about great advance in the Korean people's struggle for independent reunification of the country.

Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses is a precious result of the chuche-oriented theory of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for socialist construction and of wise leadership of the leader who devotedly worked to lead the Korean people's struggle for socialist construction to victory.

Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Factories, Workers

SK0304044795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)— The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to

the Kyongamsan and Sariwon Export Garment Factories for their great contributions to the betterment of the people's livelihood.

The factory officials and employees achieved spectacular successes in the production of the consumer and export goods true to the light industry- and foreign trade-first policies advanced by the party.

Comrade Kim Chong-il highly estimated and extended thanks to the family of Choe Pyong-sop at the Hamhung Branch Academy of the National Academy of Sciences for their communist traits displayed for the society and collective.

Thanks to Soldiers, Workers

SK0104111995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to Yi Man-sik, political officer of the Yun Kil-pyong Unit of the Korean People's Army, and his wife Yim Sun-tok and soldiers of the Kim Chin-ik Unit of the Korean People's Army for taking care of disabled soldiers with all sincerity and to Director Chon Ku-kang and employees of a hospital under the Yang Hyong-sam Unit of the Korean People's Army for giving active assistance to the construction of the monument to the party foundation.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent thanks to the employees of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital for the great achievements in medical service in the past period.

Kim Chong-il's Interest in Hospital Noted

SK0104112395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—15 years have passed since the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in company with the respected leader President Kim Il-song, gave on-the-spot guidance over the newly built Pyongyang Maternity Hospital on March 31, 1980.

It is a general hospital for women which was built under the meticulous guidance and deep solicitude of Comrade Kim Chong-il who regards the life of man as dearest.

He personally initiated the construction of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, went to the spot and designated the plottage, and visited the construction site on several occasions and gave instructions on dozens of occasions.

Saying that all the lines should be soft and smooth, convenient and artistic because the hospital is available for women, he saw to it that the hospital was built with unprecedented designs.

So, the magnificent and graceful hospital with tens of thousands of square metres of plottage and more than 60,000 square metres of floor space was constructed in the form of stretching the two arms as if to embrace the women across the country.

Since the opening of the hospital in July 1980, Comrade Kim Chong-il has shown constant loving care and solicitude for it, paying deep attention to its management and operation.

He sent it all-purpose operating tables, incubators and many other uptodate medical equipment, furniture for management and medicines and wild honey, bear's galls, Mt. Paektu rokthaego, bear's hoofs, kernel of pine nuts and other tonics and foodstuffs of high nutritive value for women in childbed.

Hundreds of thousands of babies including four groups of quadruplets and 193 groups of triplets have been born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital under his benevolent care.

And more than 4.7 million women received treatment as inpatients and outpatients and over 6,000 foreign women were given assistance of delivery and treatment of women's diseases.

Since the opening of the hospital, the number of persons with academic degrees or titles has increased to tens, and scores of inventions have been made, more than a hundred contrivances and valuable new technologies introduced in medical treatment.

The hospital also produces hundreds of kinds of medicines by itself.

Indeed, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital is a home of loving care and a cradle of happiness for women and children, overflowing with benevolence of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

More on Preparations for Reunification Festival

Letters Sent to South Koreans

SK3103231295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2239 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, March 31 (KCNA)—The North side Preparatory Committee for Grand National Reunification Festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country on Thursday [30 March] sent letters to public figures of South Korea as regards the preparations for the August 15 Grand National Reunification Festival.

The letters were addressed to advisor to the Democratic Party Kim Sang-hyon, vice-chairman of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification Yi Hyon-chae, professor of Seoul National University Paek Nak-chong, director general of the Council of 70 Million Fellow Countrymen for Reunification Pak Yong-kil and Chairman of the South Korean Christian Presbyterian General Assembly Pak Hyong-kyu.

They noted that the Grand National Reunification Festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of national liberation in which people from the North, the South and overseas are to take part, would make a fresh progress on the road of reunification for the reconciliation and unity of the nation.

Proposing, from such a viewpoint, to them to meet as soon as possible to discuss the matters concerning the preparations for the August 15 Grand National Reunification Festival, the letters expressed the hope that they would show an affirmative response to the North's proposal to have contacts in a third country within April.

ROK-Overseas Koreans Contacts Urged

SK0104112495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the North Side Preparatory Committee for grand national reunification festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of national liberation issued a statement today, expressing his sincere hope that the political parties and organisations of South Korea will hold bilateral or multilateral contact with the North at an early date in response to the North-proposed festival.

The statement says:

Our proposal for holding a grand national reunification festival on the 50th anniversary of national liberation is a patriotic one which emanates from the noble desire to make this a historic year in opening a new phase for reunification in the 1990s.

Those who truly want national reconciliation and unity and a radical phase for reunification this year must not turn their back on the North-proposed August 15 festival but courageously rise in struggle to hold it with success.

It is high time all Koreans in the North, the South and overseas desirous of reunification made a patriotic decision and rose in struggle to hold the festival with success in the teeth of the difficulties.

If the festival is to be held as desired by the fellow countrymen, the political parties, organisations and personages in the North and the South must contact and consult with each other under the motto of patriotism and independence, transcending the differences in ideology and idea, political view and religious belief.

Scientific, Technological Festival Concludes SK0104042895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410

GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)— The 10th National Scientific and Technological Festival opened on March 27 was closed on March 30.

Many materials of scientific and technological success made by scientists, technicians, workers, students and soldiers were accepted for the national festival, after local ones. Many scientific and technological theses and successes such as the method for boosting the output of paddy rice, the method of makeup and manuring of new fertilizer and the introduction of new refining process in vinalon production won high appreciation for their big economic significance.

At the closing ceremony, prizes were awarded to those who made excellent success in the festival and the scientific research work and technical innovations last year.

Performances at Spring Art Festival Described

SK0204085395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—An art troupe of Korean residents in Japan, staying in the socialist motherland to participate in the 13th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, gave its premiere in Pyongyang on April 1.

The performers put on the stage the dance and pangchang "April Spring Forever", the women's chorus "Bright Smile" and the woman solo "We Yearn for the Leader" with deep reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The audience sang together with the performers, boundlessly revering for the fatherly leader.

The performers showed well the conviction and will to uphold General Kim Chong-il, the respected supreme commander, forever and follow him to the end of the world, true to the behests of President Kim Il-song in various numbers including the dance and song "Ode to the Sun" to be warmly acclaimed by the audience. The performers represented their firm determination to actively contribute to the patriotic work of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan with a single heart for making their country and their motherland more prosperous as soldiers and disciples of the great leader, regarding the socialist homeland of chuche as the beacon of hope.

The performance was appreciated by Chang Chol, vicepremier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, who is also chairman of the organizing committee of the festival, officials concerned and working people in the city.

Editorial Stresses Army, People Unity

SK0304125295 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 17 Mar 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Let Us Further Bring Laudable Custom of Unity Between the Army and the People Into Full Bloom"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In our country today, the laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people is flourishing at a new high stage under the wise leadership

of the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. We should more brilliantly bring into full bloom the laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people in conformity with the demands of the developing reality.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: "We should more brilliantly exalt our traditional laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people."

Perfect harmony between the Army and the people is the source of our own style socialism's invincible might and a firm guarantee to brilliantly consummate the chuche revolutionary cause. When the Army and the people are firmly united as one mind and one will with the great leader [yongdoja] as the center and vigorously fight they can successfully advance the socialist cause by surmounting all sorts of difficulties and trials and can be victorious in the fight against any powerful imperialist force.

Unity between the Army and the people is a traditional, laudable custom that was created in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and which has been constantly carried on together with the victorious advance of our revolution. In our country today, the traditional, laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people is being exalted higher in the course of upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il as the chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

The laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people in our society is a spiritual, moral ethos which is displayed at the noblest height that history has not known; and this is a pan-society phenomenon which is being brought into bloom among all people and the officers and men of the People's Army.

Our people, and the officers and men of the People's Army are sharing mutual understanding, life and death, sorrow and joy along the road to following the leadership of the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. All people are actively giving material and spiritual aid to those in the People's Army, while taking good care of and loving them as if they were the people's children and brothers; and the officers and men of the People's Army are fighting to devote unhesitatingly even their life in people's behalf. Because of this, inseparable ties of kinship are maintained between our people and the People's Army, even though their respective revolutionary posts are different.

The laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people, which is being brought into full bloom, is being served as the source of the invincibility of our single-hearted unity centered around the great leader [yong-doja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Unity is the root of revolution. What is most important in consolidating unity is the unity between the Army and the people centered around the leader [yongdoja]. Today, as a result that the Army loves the people and the people give active aid to the Army while upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's noble intentions, the unity between the Army and the people is being strenuously consolidated as the most solid unity of kinship based upon one center, one ideological will. No force in the world can break such a unity between the Army and the people, which has been solidified and developed in the practical struggle.

The bonds of kinship between our People's Army and the people are being served as the mightiest force that resolutely defends and safeguards our-style socialism.

Today, even though the imperialists are endlessly intensifying their knavish anti-socialist maneuvers, socialism is achieving victory after victory, just because of the existence of the unity between the Army and the people centered around the great leader [yongdoja]. The unity of kinship between the Army and the people is the driving force of the victory of our-style socialism. Because all people are giving active aid and support to the People's Army both materially and spiritually, our People's Army is priding itself upon being a matchless strong Army with invincible might. Because the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people is being brought into full bloom, we can resolutely defend, and endlessly glorify, our-style socialism, while smashing all of the imperialists' military threat, economic blockades [kyongjejok pongswoe], and ideological and cultural infiltrations.

The ties of kinship between the Army and the people are being served as the mightiest weapon in the sacred struggle to further enrich our country, our fatherland.

At the moment, our People's Army and people are marching forward in perfect harmony, while helping and leading each other, and upholding the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's far-sighted plan to build up the fatherland. The heroic exploits and miraculous successes being made in the construction of Chongnyu Bridge (second-phase construction) and Kumnung No. 2 Tunnel serve as a demonstration of the might of the unity between the Army and the people. In our country, socialist construction is being successfully implemented due to the concerted strength of the party, the Army, and the people. When such a laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people is being more highly displayed in parallel with the progress in revolution and construction, greater successes will be achieved in the struggle to enrich and develop our country, our fatherland; and the revolutionary cause of chuche will victoriously march forward.

We should take great pride and dignity in the fact that the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people is being highly displayed in our society; and we should vigorously struggle to bring this into full bloom.

What is, above all, important in more highly displaying the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people is that all people, officers and men of the People's Army should be firmly united with the endless loyalty to the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

A basic characteristic of the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people in our society is based upon the absolute sense of worship of endlessly upholding and following their leader [yongdoja]. Because the Army and the people consistently harbor a firm conviction to devote their endless loyalty to Comrade Kim Chong-il's leadership while regarding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great father [oboi] and the benefactor of their life, a laudable custom of loving and taking good care of each other is being highly displayed among them. A boundlessly pure and clean sense of loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] is an eternal bond that links the Army and the people as one blood vessel and one breath.

The respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is our era's most outstanding leader [yongdoja] and the great iron-willed, brilliant commander who has the matchless, extraordinary wisdom, leadership traits, and invincible art of command. All officers and men of the People's Army and people should totally entrust all of their fate to the comrade supreme commander and firmly rally around him, while harboring the firm conviction that without the comrade supreme commander's leadership, there is neither today's socialist fatherland, nor a future full of hope. We should firmly prepare ourselves as genuine loyalists who follow the great Comrade Kim Chong-il to the end and resolutely defend him with life, no matter how many times this world may change. As in the past, the soldiers of the People's Army should highly display the revolutionary military spirit of accomplishing the supreme commander's orders unflinchingly, unconditionally, and thoroughly, upholding the comrade supreme commander's leadership.

All people and the entire Army should firmly arm themselves with our party's ideology on the unity between the Army and the people.

Our party's ideology on the unity between the Army and the people, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created and the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is inheriting and developing, is a great banner of victory which incomparably strengthens the subjects of revolution and firmly defends the revolutionary cause under any circumstances, while helping the revolutionary Army and people achieve an invicible unity of sharing life and death in the literal sense of the word. The boundless might of this ideology has already been fully corroborated in the flames of the arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle and the fatherland liberation war, and it is being highly displayed also in the rigorous confrontation in which no bullets and bomb shells of the imperialists are being shot.

We should make many efforts to bring into bloom the laudable custom of unity between the Army and the people, keeping deep in our heart that when the Army and the people fight in firm unity along the single road to revolution in conformity with the teachings of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, we can vanquish any formidable enemy and implement any difficult task. A man, who keeps deep in his heart our party's ideology on the unity between the Army and the people and brings it into bloom in practice, is a revolutionary who is genuinely faithful to the party's cause.

All people's noble duty is to endlessly take good care of and love those in the People's Army who are genuine warriors of the comrade supreme commander.

Our People's Army is the most reliable defender of the socialist fatherland, and the creator of the people's happiness. All party members and workers should love, and give wholehearted help to, the People's Army soldiers, regarding them as their own children, while never forgetting the fact that they can carry out socialist construction and enjoy a happy life to their hearts' content because the soldiers are firmly defending the defense line of the fatherland under snowstorms and cold rains. We should sincerely give aid to our People's Army as did the people at guerrilla bases who devoted their wholehearted support to the anti-Japanese guerrillas even under the most difficult conditions. Herein lies the proud ethos of our people who are linked with the People's Army in ties of kinship.

We should help the whole society overflow with the ethos of valuing and attaching importance to soldiers [kunsa], and of cherishing and taking good care of disabled veterans.

The noble tradition and duty of our People's Army are to endlessly love people and devote life to the struggle for the people.

There is not a more glorious work for the officers and men of our People's Army, the people's genuine sons and daughters who have come from the people, than to serve the people.

All officers and men of the People's Army should devote all they have to endlessly valuing people's life and property and to promoting people's welfare, while always keeping deep in their heart that the People's Army cannot exist without the people even for a moment just like a fish cannot survive out of the water. The officers and men of the People's Army should highly display the heroic exploits by actively participating in the struggle for socialist construction to ensure a more abundant life for people, while firmly safeguarding the posts for the defense of the fatherland.

Very great is the duty assigned to the party organizations at various levels in helping highly display the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people throughout the society. Party organizations should carry out more aggressively than ever before the ideological indoctrination work to imbue the party members, workers, and People's Army soldiers deeply with the justness and vitality of the ideology on the unity between the Army and the people elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. It is also necessary to actively seek out, emphasize, and generalize the beautiful deeds done by the units and workers that have set examples in the struggle to embody the party's ideology on the unity between the Army and the people.

The work to display the laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people is a pan-society, all-people's work in which all people are participating.

We should more vigorously carry out the movement in all counties to win the title of model counties in terms of the unity between the Army and the people; and expand and develop the movement entitled "Our post, our village," "Our village, our post." In particular, guiding functionaries should stand in the lead of this movement.

Let all of us more highly display the traditional, laudable custom of the unity between the Army and the people, while upholding the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il's noble intentions.

Building of Export Production Bases Stressed SK3103141895 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 11 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by unidentified reporter: "Let Us More Strongly Build the Base To Produce Export Goods"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Songpyong District Administrative and Economic Committee

The Songpyong District Administrative and Economic Committee in Chongjin city has gained a considerable degree of achievements by concentrating efforts on building the base to produce exports goods, upholding the party's trade-first policy.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: "In displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, it is important to responsibly carry out all works from the standpoint of masters by discarding the spirit of dependency upon others."

Under the guidance of the District Party Committee, the District Administrative and Economic Committee has clearly forged plans and set targets to increase the export goods production. Also, it has organized the administrative and economic organization work with a firm position and attitude to solve all problems with its own might, thus highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Responsible functionaries, including comrades Han Pyong-hae and Kang kwang-hyon, have taken the lead in carrying out this work in a revolutionary manner. The Administrative and Economic Committee has concentrated preferential efforts [sonchajogin him] on building the sea urchin farm. To build the fishing facilities needed for creating the sea urchin farm, the committee has carried out the work—in a all-people movement manner—to search for idle materials and reserves. In the course of this, it was able to collect materials that can be used to manufacture anchors, ropes, nets, and iron bars, as well as to sail several submarines [chanmsubae] on the sea. Also, it was able to outstandingly build approximately 40 chongbo (1 chongbo equals 2.451 acres) of the sea urchin farm.

The committee has earnestly carried out the work to build the base to produce mushrooms.

To build the rapid mushroom production base and the oak mushroom production base, the committee has carried out the work in a planned way to prepare its own spore-production place [chonggyunjang]. By so doing, it has laid the foundation for normalizing spore production [chonggyun saengsan].

Based on this, the committee has prepared materials needed for cultivating mushrooms, including oak trees, in a all-people movement manner, and, thus, built the rapid-grow mushroom and oak mushroom production bases.

Also, the committee has properly built the bases where several thousands of pheasants and rabbits can be raised, vigorously carrying out the construction of a pheasant and rabbit farm.

The Songpyong District Administrative and Economic Committee has forged the practical plans to properly manage the export goods production bases built based on the self-reliance and fortitude.

Hydroelectric Power Stations Overfulfill Plans

SK0104021095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Highly upholding the party's revolutionary economic strategy, electricity-generating workers of hydroelectric power stations under the Ministry of Electric Power Industry have vigorously waged the struggle to increase electricity generation, thus achieving great success in overfulfilling the plans for the first quarter and for March ahead of schedule.

Central Broadcasting reporter Pak Chae-u interviewed Kim Hyong-son, vice director of the Guidance Bureau for Hydroelectric Power Stations of the Ministry of Electric Power Industry:

[Begin recording] [Pak] We heard that hydroelectric power stations have overfulfilled the plans for the first quarter and for March ahead of schedule. Can you tell us more about this?

[Kim] Yes, hydroelectric power stations across the country under the Ministry of Electric Power Industry

achieved great success in fulfilling the plans for the first quarter and for March. As of the end of March, hydroelectric power stations across country have exceeded the first-quarter plan by 101.4 percent and the March plan by 108 percent.

The Kanggye Youth Power Station, the Hochongang Power Station, the Changjingang Power Station, and other hydroelectric power stations have especially achieved brilliant success in fulfilling the first-quarter plan and the March plan ahead of schedule.

The primary factor that enabled hydroelectric power stations to overfulfill the electricity generation plan ahead of schedule is that facilities and technology management over electricity-generating facilities were effectively carried out, making sure every facility operated at full capacity. Hydroelectric power stations have established a preventive repair system, managing and repairing facilities at the proper time.

Another important factor is water management. Hydroelectric power stations have taken good care of and effectively used water, thus producing more electricity with small amounts of water.

In the future, we will scrupulously carry out economic organization work to increase electricity generation, and will vigorously wage political propaganda and economic agitation in order to enhance the electricity-generating workers's originality, thus maintaining high and steady production at hydroelectric power stations. In doing so, we will actively contribute to making our country, our fatherland, more prosperous. [end recording]

South Korea

'Top Secret' DPRK Negotiation Strategy Learned SK0204032895 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 1

[By correspondent Yi Chae-ho from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 1 April that North Korea plans to assume a full-fledged offensive for the establishment of a peace agreement and the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces in Korea [USFK] from the ROK if the light-water reactor issue is not properly resolved.

It was also learned that North Korea believes the failure to resolve the light-water reactor issue would be favorable for Pyongyang; North Korea has already adopted the strategy that it will drag out implementation of the agreed framework while raising issues regarding the establishment of a peace agreement and the withdrawal of the USFK from the ROK. This has been confirmed by a North Korean top secret instruction recently obtained by TONG-A ILBO.

Instruction #348, classified as top secret and issued in early March by the North Korean Ministry of Foreign

Affairs to the North Korean Mission to the United Nations, informed the mission of the internal policy on the then-forthcoming Berlin negotiations with the United States on the light-water reactor issue, ordering the mission to report the U.S. position on and moves concerning this issue.

This shows that the ultimate goal pursued by North Korea through the implementation of the Geneva agreement is the withdrawal of the USFK from the ROK and the signing of a peace treaty between North Korea and the United States.

In the instruction, North Korea criticized: "The United States accepts the South Korean puppets' gibberish of hardship totally as it is and continuously adheres to its maneuver to pressure and threaten us [migugun kyongsuro munjeeso namjoson koeroedurui abujaegirul kudaero suyonghamyo urie taehan amnyokkwa wihyop chaektonge kyesok maedalligo itta]." It also stated: "However, we have not yet strongly raised these issues [the establishment of a peace agreement and the withdrawal of the USFK], taking the U.S. position into consideration so far." "It is more favorable to us that the United States complies with South Korea's request, making no concession to us as regards the light-water reactor issue." The instruction also states: "In this case, we will be able to drag out implementation of the (Geneva) agreement while raising issues regarding the establishment of a peace-guaranteeing system [pyonghwa pojang chegye] and the withdrawal of the USFK from South Korea, and be able to do all that we want." The instruction also pointed out: "What is essential for creating an atmosphere for implementing the agreed framework is the withdrawal of the USFK from South Korea, which is the source of DPRK-U.S. military confrontation, and the establishment of a new peace system [pyonghwa chegye] between the DPRK and the United States.'

Newspaper Releases Letter 'Text'

SK0204040495 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 2

["Full text" of top secret instruction issued in early March by the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the DPRK Mission in the United Nations]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pyongyang internally assesses the recent remarks by some U.S. politicians and highlevel military authorities, which demand resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise and increasing U.S. Forces in South Korea [USFK], as completely contrary to the agreed framework. This framework specifies that the DPRK and the United States shall make joint efforts to achieve denuclearization, peace, and security on the Korean Peninsula as well as creating severe obstacles to its implementation.

Essential for creating an atmosphere for implementing the agreed framework is the withdrawal from South Korea of the USFK, which is the source of DPRK-U.S. military confrontation, and the establishment of a new peace system between the DPRK and the United States (kibon habuimun ihaengeso kibonun chomisaiui kunsajok taegyorui kunwonuro toegoinnun namjoson chudun migunul cholsusikigo chomisaie saeroun pyonghwa chegyerul suriphanun kosida]. However, we have not yet strongly raised these issues, taking the U.S. position into consideration so far. Nevertheless, the United States accepts the South Korean puppets' gibberish of hardship totally as it is and continuously adheres to its maneuver to pressure and threaten us [migugun kyongsuro munjeeso namjoson koeroedurui abujaegirul kudaero suyonghamyo urie taehan amnyokkwa wihyop chaektonge kyesok maedalligo ittal. This only creates obstacles to implementation of the agreed framework and will eventually bring about a situation unfavorable to U.S. strategic interests [migugui chollyakchok ihaegwangye].

Be internally aware of the plan to assume a full-fledged offensive [taedaejogin kongse] over the issues of establishing a peace system [pyonghwa chegye] and withdrawing [cholsu] the USFK from the ROK if the lightwater reactor issue is not properly [chedaero] resolved. It is more favorable to us that the United States complies with South Korea's request, making no concession to us regarding the light-water reactor issue. In this case, we will be able to drag out [ppochyo nagalsu ikko] implementation of the (Geneva) agreement while raising issues regarding the establishment of a peaceguaranteeing system [pyonghwa pojang chegye] and the withdrawal [cholsu] of the USFK from South Korea, and be able to do all that we want [uri polchang ta polsu issum]. Grasp the U.S. position on, and movement toward the light-water reactor issue. When it is believed the current U.S. position will not change, immediately report on it.

'Internal Instruction' Analyzed

SK0204105195 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Yi Chaeho: "The Content and Purpose of Pyongyang's Secret Instruction—Strategy for Achieving the 'Ultimate Goal of U.S. Troop Withdrawal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea's internal instruction has revealed that its ultimate goal in implementing the DPRK-U.S. Geneva agreement is the withdrawal of U.S. troops and a peace agreement between North Korea and the United States. The instruction clearly makes evident the final goal of North Korea's nuclear diplomacy. North Korea succeeded in obtaining the result called improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations through nuclear threat. This, however, is only an intermediate step.

North Korea deals with the nuclear problem from a broader viewpoint. In other words, North Korea would not content itself merely with the acquisition of alternative energy (light-water reactors) in return for abandoning the development of nuclear weapons or with the establishment of its liaison office in Washington. North Korea is moving under a longer-range strategic purpose of ultimately making the U.S. Forces withdraw from Korea and changing (breaking) the armistice system on the Korean peninsula.

If the building of a foundation for North Korea-U.S. relations through nuclear threat is called the beginning of nuclear diplomacy, the U.S. troop withdrawal can be called the end of this diplomacy.

In its instruction, North Korea clearly revealed its intention to link the light-water reactor issue with the withdrawal of U.S. Forces. North Korea declared that "if the light-water reactor issue is not satisfactorily resolved, it will launch a large-scale offensive with the peace guarantee system and the U.S. troop withdrawal issues." North Korea even stated that for this, failure in finding a solution to the light-water reactor issue would be advantageous in itself. The North Korean strategy is that "when the reactor issue fails, North Korea will be able to extend the implementation of the framework agreement by raising the issue of a peace guarantee system and the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal, thus achieving its aim at last."

Concerning this, a diplomatic source in Washington explained: "In the event that a solution is not found according to North Korea's wishes at the light-water reactor talks in Berlin, which will resume in April, North Korea will attempt to link the U.S. troop withdrawal and conclusion of a peace agreement with the settlement of the light-water reactor issue."

This official also said "North Korea does not want to see a solution to the light-water reactor issue through a single effort." He observed that "North Korea appears to believe that only when the light-water reactor issue is linked with the U.S. troop withdrawal and the conclusion of a peace agreement, can it launch an offensive by taking advantage of this issue throughout the entire period of the implementation of the Geneva talks."

The official explained that the North Korean side demanded an additional \$1 or \$2 billion for assistance at the talks on light-water reactors that ended in Berlin on 27 March, and reports described this demand as being an obstacle to the talks. Such observation, however, is superficial. What North Korea really aims at is not money.

(Linsup Sin), a Korean-American who is an Asian affairs analyst at the U.S. Congressional Research Service said: "North Korea has already formulated a strategy of linking the implementation of the Geneva agreement with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea. This strategy will be concretely implemented in the form of a proposal for exchanging the acceptance of a special inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency

with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea." He added that from the outset, North Korean nuclear diplomacy has been a "10-year operation for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea."

Ministry Said Preparing Measures

SK0304041095 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 2 April, the ROK Government began investigating and preparing measures regarding the 2 April TONG-A ILBO report that North Korea sent an instruction to its UN mission revealing Pyongyang's ultimate goal in the nuclear issue as the signing of a peace agreement with the United States and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the ROK rather than the acquisition of light-water reactors.

The ROK Foreign Ministry held a staff meeting at the foreign minister's official residence in Hannam-tong in Seoul on 2 April. The meeting was presided over by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong and attended by Foreign Ministry staff including Yi Chae-chun, first assistant minister, and Yim Song-chun, director-general for American Affairs. The meeting decided to take strong measures once the government has traced how the North Korean instruction was disclosed and has analyzed its intention and contents.

The Foreign Ministry issued emergency instructions to the ROK Embassy in the United States and the ROK Mission to the United Nations to investigate how the instruction was disclosed.

The Foreign Ministry reportedly will discuss this matter with the United States, will urge North Korea to sincerely implement the nuclear accord signed in Geneva, and will reiterate the ROK position that the nuclear issue is separate from the issues of the U.S. Forces in the ROK and the peace agreement.

The ROK Government decided to further strengthen the ROK-U.S. alliance in order to clearly derail North Korea's intention to link the nuclear issue with the U.S. Forces in the ROK or the request to sign a peace agreement with the United States.

The ROK Government is analyzing the possibility that North Korea intentionally forged and leaked the strictly confidential document to gain the upper hand in negotiations on the light-water reactors.

A Foreign Ministry official stated: "The Geneva nuclear accord defines items to be implemented by North Korea and the United States. If North Korea links the implementation of the Geneva agreement with U.S. Forces and the peace agreement, the agreement will be inevitably broken. We will clearly convey this point to North Korea and urge North Korea to sincerely implement the Geneva agreement."

The official added: "Even if North Korea did establish the policy to withdraw U.S. Forces from the ROK using the nuclear issue, the North Korean strategy will not work on the current ROK-U.S. coordination system."

Government Prepares for High-Level Nuclear Talks

SK0304054895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea Friday will hold high-level talks with the United States and Japan regarding the provision of light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday.

The talks to be held in New York will discuss ways to address the proposals made by the North at nuclear talks held between Pyongyang and Washington in Berlin last week, a ministry official said.

North Korea proposed that it would allow South Korea to take part in the construction of nuclear reactors in the North if the reactors provided are specifically labeled by an American nuclear reactor manufacturer, the official said.

South Korea will make it clear during the talks in New York that it will not accept any proposal from the North unless the North accepts South Korean-made reactors, while at the same time cementing ties with the United States and Japan on the nuclear issue, said the official.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong convened a meeting of senior ministry officials at the foreign minister's residence in central Seoul Sunday where they discussed the North Korean nuclear issue, said the official.

The meeting focused on ways to deal with the North's proposal during the Berlin talks last week, said the official, adding that there was no change in the government's position.

He denied reports that the Foreign Ministry held Sunday's meeting to discuss ways in which they should handle allegations concerning North Korea leaking information that stated the North is more interested in normalizing relations with the United States and replacing the current armistice treaty with a peace pact than it is in getting light-water nuclear reactors from the United States.

"Sunday's talks were scheduled before the allegations were revealed," said the official. "Such tactics by North Korea are nothing new and the South Korean Government has been aware of them all the way."

He also denied reports that the United States has been pressuring Seoul to accept the North's proposal made at the Berlin talks, saying, "Every country can have different positions on a certain issue, but the difference between South Korea and the United States is not a major one in nature."

"We have considered, from the start of the nuclear talks, the possibility of the North using the nuclear talks with the United States as a pretext to achieve goals other than getting nuclear reactors," said the official.

However, he did say whether the government thinks, at least at the moment, that the North actually needs to get the reactors, noting that the nuclear agreed framework between Pyongyang and Washington stipulates that its implementation is closely related to improving inter-Korean relations.

Paper Reports Government Plans on LWR Issue SK0304030295 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 1

[Reporter Ko Tae-song]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is considering independently declaring causal nullification of the North Korean-U.S. agreement in case North Korea does not show any change in its position of rejecting ROK-style light-water reactors [LWR] by 21 April, the deadline set for the signing of the agreement between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) on the supply of light-water reactors to North Korea, it was learned on 2 April.

In addition to the declaration on the causal nullification, the government is also planning to undertake preparations to implement sanctions against the North immediately. The government's preparation for sanctions against the North include such measures as referring the North's nuclear issue to the UN Security Council; independent sanctions by the three KEDO countries, namely the ROK, the United States, and Japan; the resumption of ROK-U.S. joint military exercises; and reinforcing defense capabilities in case of contingencies.

The government's position is based on its judgment that the ROK cannot tolerate the indefinite prolongation of negotiations because North Korea may be scheming to obtain other concessions from countries such as the United States while rejecting ROK-style light water reactors.

Therefore, the government is planning to undertake specific discussions on these measures pursuant to the North Korean nonfulfillment of its obligations at the KEDO Executive Board meeting and high-level political consultation among the ROK, the United States, and Japan that will be held around 7 April.

A government source said: "The supply of ROK-style light-water reactors is the key element of the North Korean-U.S. agreement; therefore, if North Korea continues to reject it, it means North Korea is violating the agreement. If North Korea is allowed to continue to violate the agreement indefinitely, North Korea will probably make other demands, such as the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from the ROK and the signing of a peace agreement."

U.S.: Improved Reactor Model Not U.S.-Style SK0304005795 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States revealed that it has decided to convince North Korea that the C-80 improved model, the light-water reactor that North Korea is demanding, is not a U.S.-style but ROK-style. A well-informed source in Washington said if North Korea intentionally demands an improved U.S.-style light-water reactor and rejects the ROK's central role in this issue, the ROK and the United States will not accept this.

The ROK, United States, and Japan will hold a meeting of the Executive Council of the Korea Energy Development Organization in New York sometime this week to discuss new ways to jointly deal with this matter.

Comments on U.S. Ambassador's Remark on Reactors

SK0304080895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—U.S. Ambassador to South Korea James Laney said Sunday that North Korea will have to accept the South Korean-made nuclear reactors, urging the North to accept the reality that there will be no alternative to the South Korean reactors, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Laney told a gathering in the southwestern provincial capital of Kwangju Sunday that the North should abandon the "false pride" which is preventing it from taking "charity" from the South, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yu Kwang-sok said, quoting a source from the United States Embassy here.

The spokesman dismissed reports that Laney told the gathering South Korea's insistence to provide the North with South Korean standard light-water nuclear reactors served as an impediment to a smooth conclusion of nuclear talks with North Korea.

Yu said that the false reports were based on remarks made by some who attended Sunday's meeting with the American ambassador.

'Indirect Pressure' on Seoul

SK0304094895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by Yi Sang-il: "Suspected of Putting Indirect Pressure on the ROK—Background of U.S. Ambassador Laney's Remarks in Kwangju"]

[FBIS Translated Text] James Laney, U.S. ambassador to the ROK, made strange [isanghan] remarks on 2 April. He visited Kwangju for the first time since he assumed office. He talked about the light-water reactors issue when he met with Father Cho Pius, chairman of the 18

May Memorial Foundation [Kwangju democracy movement]; Chonnam University Professor Myong No-kun; and other dissident figures.

He said: "North Korea is dissatisfied with South Korea's attitude of dealing with the light-water reactor issue as if it is doing North Korea a favor [pukhanun namhani sihyejok chawoneso chopkunhago innungosul motmaddanghage saenggakhanda]." He also stressed: "It is necessary (for the ROK Government) to flexibly handle this issue considering the fact that the North Korean regime led by Kim Chong-il has many internal problems." He also said: "The United States is in a difficult position because South Korea deals with the issue as if it is doing North Korea a favor."

The majority feel that we cannot overlook Amb. Laney's remarks. The majority feel we cannot and should not overlook his remarks in view of the timing of the remarks. At the North Korean-U.S. experts meeting on light-water reactors in Berlin, which was temporarily suspended on 27 March, North Korea advanced a proposal that interested the United States. The proposal favors a U.S.-led firm to supply the light-water reactors. The United States gives the impression that it hopes or is advising the ROK to make concessions. We cannot and should not overlook Amb. Laney's remarks because he made them at such a time.

For this reason, the ROK Government began to find out exactly what Amb. Laney said and why.

A ROK Foreign Ministry official said: "It is regrettable if Amb. Laney really made the remarks."

This official said that Amb. Laney made the remarks for some reason. He went on to say: A diplomat expresses his opinion prudently considering the position of the host country. This is custom and common sense. He has a reason or an ulterior motive if he ignores this custom and common sense.

Therefore, people suspect that Amb. Laney made the remarks on cue from the U.S. Government. Even before this, people had suspected, not without reason, that the United States has applied visible and invisible pressure on the ROK Government and that the ROK-U.S. cooperation system is shaky.

At the moment, our government has a clear-cut position on the supply of light-water reactors to North Korea and has repeatedly expressed the position. Its position is: The light-water reactors must be of a ROK model, and the ROK must play a central role in their provision. The government also has stated that it will have no reason to provide massive funds and will not provide such funds if this principle is not met.

This is natural logic. We are not dealing with the light-water reactor supply issue as if we are doing North Korea a favor. The reason is: Both the North Korean nuclear issue and the light-water reactors supply issue

were not raised because we wanted to do North Korea a favor or wanted those issues to be raised.

The government believes that the U.S. ambassador's criticism [unun] about the "attitude of doing North Korea a favor" is not understandable. It also says that it does not know if the ambassador does not know how we think or if he intends to ignore it. Amb. Laney's remarks that day make us suspect all the more that the U.S. Government seeks to gain real profits by using the light-water reactor issue and North Korea as a leverage.

U.S. House Resolution Supports ROK Reactors SK0104021495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, March 31 (YON-HAP)—Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.) submitted a resolution Friday [31 March] to the U.S. House of Representatives, supporting South Korean standard model lightwater reactors as those to be provided to North Korea under the Geneva agreement.

The joint resolution presented by Rep. Bereuter, chairman of the House Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, said South Korea "is the only acceptable source for the major nuclear components for light-water reactors to be provided to North Korea under the agreed framework."

While another resolution by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee focused on measures to relax tension between South and North Korea, the Bereuter resolution mainly presented instructions to the U.S. Government.

The resolution, yet to be acted by the House, is based on the sense of Congress, which does not have any legal binding force.

The resolution pointed out that the agreed framework between North Korea and the United States does not indicate specific criteria for the full normalization of relations between the United States and North Korea.

"...And does not link the sequencing of actions in the agreed framework with any timeframe for carrying out the provisions of the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and carrying out the dialogue between South and North Korea," it said.

The resolution also said that the United States should suspend its obligations under the agreed framework if North Korea attempts to reload its existing five megawatt nuclear reactor or resumes construction of nuclear facilities other than those permitted to be built under the agreed framework.

After the approval of the resolution, the U.S. President should not take further steps toward upgrading diplomatic relations with North Korea or relaxing trade and investment barriers against North Korea without several conditions, according to the resolution.

The conditions are action by the North Korean Government to engage in the inter-Korean dialogue, implementation of the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and progress toward the achievement of several long-standing U.S. policy objectives regarding North Korea and the Korean peninsula.

The progress includes, it said, reducing the number of North Korean military forces along the Demilitarized Zone and relocating such military forces away from the zone, prohibiting any North Korean movement toward the deployment of an intermediate range ballistic missile system and prohibiting the North Korean export of missiles and other weapons of mass destruction, including related technology and components.

Kim Pyong-il Reportedly Under House Arrest

SK0304092995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0913 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— Kim Pyong-il, North Korean ambassador to Finland and de facto leader Kim Chong-il's younger half-brother, was summoned to North Korea recently, while more than 50 of his followers have been confined to their houses, a diplomatic source here said on Monday.

The source who visited China late last month said, "Chinese officials who visited North Korea last month told me that Kim was recalled to North Korea and that more than 50 of his followers have been placed under house arrest."

The source, however, said that it's not known why Kim was summoned or why his followers are under house arrest. "Kim Pyong-il himself seems to also be under virtual house arrest," the source said.

De facto leader Kim Chong-il has not taken office as state president since his father Kim Il-song died last July, breeding rumors that he is in a serious power struggle.

Kim Pyong-il is the son of Kim Il-song and second wife Kim Song-ae.

There have been rumors of a power struggle between Chong-il and Pyong-il.

Government Disputes Report

SK0304110295 Seoul YONHAP in English 1055 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—A senior government official said on Monday afternoon that the local report that Kim Pyong-il, half-brother of North Korea's Kim Chong-il, has been under house arrest in Pyongyang, appears not true.

"A check through a diplomatic channel indicated that Kim Pyong- il, North Korean ambassador to Finland, attended the Finnish Parliament's opening ceremony last March 29," the official said. A report, quoting a diplomatic source, said Monday Kim Pyong-il was recently summoned back to North Korea and has since been under virtual house arrest.

Seoul Views Report on Kim Chong-il's Succession SK0304072895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0707 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Government officials on Monday flatly denied as "groundless" a press report that North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il appears to have completed his ascension to the top of the reclusive country's hierarchy.

The report is based on the lyrics of a song, the lines of which signifies that Kim's succession to power is complete.

Officials well versed in North Korean affairs, however, still think that Kim has yet to complete the procedures necessary for him to be formally recognized as state president and general secretary of the Workers' Party.

The officials note that the song's lyrics were written by pro-Pyongyang Korean residents in Japan to show their loyalty to Kim last year. "Its just that people (out of North Korea) have just happened to know of its existence belatedly," an official said.

The officials place more weight on Kim's rumored poor health, citing recent reports that three American neurologists secretly visited North Korea and Kim's repeated failures to meet with major foreign figures.

A government official pointed out that the delegation of Japanese ruling coalition parties which visited North Korea recently was not allowed to meet with Kim because he was still "mourning" the death of his late father and President Kim Il-song.

Moreover, he said, there has not been a single case where Kim met with visitors from Western countries.

The true reason for his refusals to meet with most foreign representatives, officials explained, is not because he is still in a state of mourning, but rather it's due to his poor health.

"We are skeptical about Kim's firm grip on power when we scrutinize North Korean broadcasting and news reports of its official organs," an observer said. "We must notice Kim's intensive inspection tour of military units that has been made recently. That is a sign he is still faced with the task of winning the military over to his side, to prevent its breakaway from him. [no closing quotation mark as received]

But there is other analysis as well.

Another government source predicted that the forthcoming Pyongyang festival in late April is closely connected with Kim's succession to power.

Moreover, North Korea is slated to elect delegates for the 10th Supreme People's Assembly towards the end of this month. Taking advantage of the occasion, Kim is expected to conduct a large scale change, directed at another generation, to strengthen the base supporting him.

Rising North Korean Military Leaders Analyzed SK0304115395 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Yi Chung-kun]

[FBIS Translated Text] With Kim Chong-il's policy of "close connection with the military," which has been apparent since the beginning of this year, the rise in power of those military figures among the second generation of the revolution has been remarkably evident.

On 16 February, while reporting on "the meeting of company commanders and political instructors," the North Korean Central Broadcasting Station referred to Vice Marshals Kim Kwang-chin and Kim Pong-yul and Generals Yi Ha-il, Kim Myong-kuk, and Pak Ki-so as members of the Central Military Commission of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK].

In connection with this, experts on North Korean affairs view such a promotion of these military figures as a move to encourage the military. In other words, this means that Kim Chong-il has given special treatment to military figures with the aim of placing the military under his influence.

Some hold, however, that their appointment as members of the party's Central Military Commission at this time means that Kim Chong-il has earnestly started exercising the right of taking personnel action within the military.

The promotion of Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, who belongs to the elder group in the military, to the post of a member of the Central Military Commission can be viewed as an action to give him special treatment. However, the promotion of Yi Ha-il, Kim Myong-kuk, and Pak Ki-so, the second generation of the revolution, can be analyzed to be a move by Kim Chong-il to plant his close confidants in the military.

In particular, what draws our attention is Gen. Yi Ha-il, Kim Myong-kuk, and Pak Ki-so. These three generals accompanied Kim Chong-il when he visited a military unit on 6 February and a women's coastal artillery unit on 8 February. While accompanying Kim Chong-il's visit to the women's coastal artillery unit the three generals were called members of the WPK Central Military Commission for the first time. Thus, it has been revealed that they have entered the center of power in North Korea.

Yi Ha-il was elected a member of the party Central Committee at the Sixth Party Congress in 1980. At that time Yi ranked 96th among the 145 Central Committee members from the military. He became "director of a department of the party Central Committee" in 1987. He was elected a member of the National Defense Commission at the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly in 1990, when Kim Chong-il began to control the military in earnest. Like O Kuk-yol, he is a member of the second generation of the revolution. He is viewed to be a close confidant of Kim Chong-il's close confidants in view of the fact that at the "meeting of company commanders and political instructors" his name was called before Vice Marshals Kim Kwang-chin and Kim Pong-yul. In particular, he ranked 42d in the list of the members of the State Funeral Committee for Kim Il-song.

Another rising star is Kim Myong-kuk. Kim was elected a candidate member of the party Central Committee in 1989. He was elected a full member of the party Central Committee in 1991. He was promoted to colonel general in 1992 and to general in 1994. Thus, he has been enjoying a rapid rise. Although the post he holds in the military is not known, it is certain that he is a close confidant of Kim Chong-il. When the names of the members of the WPK Central Military Commission were announced on 15 February his name was called after Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin and other vice marshal officers.

Gen. Pak Ki-so is also a new rising star. Little is known about him. He was also appointed a member of the party Central Military Commission this time. According to experts on North Korean affairs, he is also a close confidant of Kim Chong-il.

On the other hand, on 1 January 1995 Kim Chong-il visited the 214th antiaircraft artillery unit that shot down a U.S. helicopter at the end of last year and it is analyzed that during the first three months of this year Kim Chong-il visited military units a total of 10 occasions with the purpose of "controlling and encouraging the military."

U.S.-DPRK Telephone Service Benefits Viewed SK0304054095 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S.-North Korea Telephone Service"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The telephone hookup between the United States and North Korea is not shocking news since it is the result of terms reached in an agreement in Geneva last August. The two sides agreed to ease trade and investment restrictions, including those on communication and financial transactions, within three months following the Geneva agreement. Accordingly, the United States eased economic sanctions against North Korea on 20 January.

However, we are embarrassed by the hasty U.S. action with North Korea under the current situation in which no progress has been made in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, which is the core of the Geneva agreement, because of difficulties in negotiations over

providing light-water reactors. Though the opening of the U.S.- North Korea general telephone hookup is not directly connected with the nuclear issue, at least in light of its timing, the United States seems to take no regard of the ROK people's sentiment [haekkwa mibuk ilbanjonhwa kaetongi chikchopchoguro yongwan toenungosun anilchirado chogodo igosui taimingesonun hanguk saramdurui simiongul aranggot hajiannun taedoga votboinda]. North Korea has few private telephones, and the telephone numbers of the 600,000 odd circuits in North Korea are unknown to the public, much like a state secret. I do not understand what significance the opening of the U.S.-North Korea general telephone hookup would have under this situation. We believe that meaningful results [uimiinnun songgwa] can be achieved in economic exchange and cooperation between the United States and North Korea in communication, finance, trade, and investment only when it is promoted while making progress in meeting such a prerequisite as the resolution of the nuclear issue first.

Despite this, it is good if the U.S.-North Korea telephone service is used to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear development program and become a member of the international community. We also expect that more active communications and visits between the United States and North Korea, propelled by the opening of the telephone hookup, will contribute to changing North Korea into an open society. It is not yet known how many telephone facilities will be distributed between the United States and North Korea, but we welcome the opening of the U.S.-North Korea telephone hookup if it eases communication among separated family members in South and North Korea as well as exchanges of civilian cultural and academic organizations between South and North. Thus, it is desirable for the government to take measures to actively utilize the U.S.-North Korea telephone links, as well as measures to prevent private inter-Korean telephone conversations via the United States from harming state security.

Those who have already been exchanging indirect telephone conversations with North Korea via compatriots in Japan, the PRC, and Russia should make good use of the excellent communication facilities of American Telephone and Telegraph. Exchanges of information by increased telephone conversations should help expanding mutual understanding. The abuse of modern conveniences in espionage activities must be eliminated. With the opening of the U.S.-North Korea telephone hookup as momentum, I hope many private telephones will be distributed in North Korea so that North Koreans can hear outside news even on the phone.

U.S. Human Rights Report on DPRK Criticized SK0104144795 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Apr 95 pp 202-205

[Article by Kim Chong-hwan, Washington correspondent of PUSAN MAEIL SINMUN: "U.S. State Department's Report on the North Korean Human Rights Situation Contains Insufficient 'Information on North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Limitation in Gathering Information

Every time I read the "Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in the World," which the U.S. State Department releases every year, I strongly feel that the report does not contain sufficient information on North Korea and fails to maintain a balance in dealing with North and South Korea. This is true quantity-wise: The section on the North Korean human rights situation is a mere half of that on the ROK situation.

This is also the case with the 1994 human rights report released this year. The report describes the human rights situation of the ROK, a free democratic country, very much in detail, in 20 pages, while describing that of North Korea in a mere 10 pages.

The State Department frankly admitted that it has limitations in gathering information because North Korea is a closed country. The report gives the following annotation on the bottom of the first chapter:

"The United States has no diplomatic relations with the DPRK. North Korea does not give foreign government representatives, journalists, nor other invited guests the freedom of travel which would make it possible for them to assess the human rights situation there. Therefore, this report is based mostly on the information which we acquired long before 1994. This report hints at today's human rights situation even though it has limitations on details."

What is not understandable is the fact that the report repeats the 1993 report, except for the information on the death of Kim Il-song. I cannot but view that the State Department lacked sincere efforts in writing this report because no important new facts were added to the new report, no matter how difficult it may be to gather information.

I think so even though I know that Americans are eager to inquire into the true state of things and do not believe they did not see personally. The report in most cases describes the general human rights situation without giving facts of whose human rights were violated and how.

I counted how many names were mentioned. The 1994 report mentioned four names, except for Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, while the 1993 report mentioned six.

A problem is that one of the four names was erroneous. The State Department's report quoted a defector, formerly a high-ranking official of the North Korean security department, describing, in July 1991, North Korea's political concentration camps. The report rendered the defector's name as "Cho Kap-chae."

This is an uncommon Korean name. I immediately presumed the report mistook him for Cho Kap-che, chief of a department of WOLGAN CHOSON, who very often writes articles on the North Korean issue. When asked,

Cho Kap-che told me that he once interviewed Mr. Kim Chong-min, a defector from North Korea. In quoting Cho Kap-che's article, the United States mistook the defector for the interviewer.

When I mentioned this in writing, a State Department official said: It has been written that way since 1992. However, no one from the ROK has pointed it out. It will be corrected upon confirmation.

A Working-Level Official in Charge Is Assistant Secretary Shattuck

How is the human rights report written, and how was this mistake made? A State Department official said the Bureau of Human Rights [and Humanitarian Affairs] writes the report based on materials provided by the U.S. Embassy in the ROK and the Korea Department of the State Department.

I asked John Shattuck, assistant secretary for democracy, human rights, and labor affairs [title as published], who is a working-level official in charge of the human rights report, to explain how the report is written. He described how difficult it is to gather information.

He said: "It is very difficult to gather information on some regions of the world. As the report mentioned, it is difficult to gather information on not only North Korea but also Tibet. Iran and Iraq are no different."

Assistant Secretary Shattuck, who joined the Clinton administration after serving as deputy chief of the U.S. Committee of Amnesty International and vice president of Harvard University, went on to say:

"We receive information on North Korea from diplomatic and nongovernmental agencies, the news media, and various other diverse sources. These sources tell the world what has happened or is happening in North Korea. I hope we will have chances to get more information on North Korea in the near future. The human rights situation there is very brutal and authoritarian, and individual freedoms are restricted harshly. However, as we frankly said in the report, we could not describe the human rights situation in detail because there is no freedom of the press in North Korea and because we cannot freely visit North Korea. It is well known that it is difficult to visit North Korea.

We know it is difficult to gather information on North Korea, as Assistant Secretary Shattuck explained. However, despite the harsh condition, we do not think the United States did its best to mention, at least, press reports, just like it did when it described the ROK human rights situation. This is more apparent when we compare the report released last year with the report released this year.

The 1993 and 1994 human rights reports quoted a very small minority of those who fled North Korean concentration camps. The reports described them as those who "insist they fled." It seems that the United States had

some reservations on the ROK Government's announcement that they had fled North Korea.

It is natural for the United States to reserve its decision about what it did not hear directly. Nevertheless, the United States might have sought assistance from the ROK Government, interviewed those who had fled North Korea, rendered their names and quoted their remarks correctly. The ROK authorities have no reason not to cooperate in this matter.

The fact that no new information was added in last year's report is also a problem. The report did not mention at all the forced repatriation of North Korean people who fled to China and their inhumane treatment, on which the ROK news media extensively reported in 1993. I cannot help but think that the report did not mention it not to further incite the Chinese Government, which had been irritated by the controversy over the Chinese human rights situation.

The 1994 report failed to mention NHK Television's report on the North Korean logging camp in Siberia, which was mentioned in the 1993 report. This is not understandable either. NHK found the harsh situation there with the help of regional Russian officials. This information is quite reliable. The 1994 report deleted this information; it rather roughly described the general situation of concentration camps and merely mentioned "lumber camp" in parentheses. I cannot but say the report lacks sincere efforts.

The list of six persons, except Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, was reduced to four, because O Kil-nam and Sin Suk-cha, his wife, who were listed in the 1993 report, were deleted. O Kil-nam, who voluntarily went to North Korea together with his wife and two daughters while living in Germany, came to Denmark by himself and sought political asylum. As a result, his family was detained in a camp. The story about O Kil-nam and his family is an example that shows the real human rights situation in North Korea. This issue is also related to the German Government.

The NHK report on felling sites and the story about O Kil-nam's family have a common factor related to third countries, including Japan and Germany. Thus, we are wondering if any diplomatic consideration was given to deleting their names from the list.

On the other hand, there is an indication that the State Department took pains on the issue of repeating the same content every year. We come to notice some changes of prefixes made in many places of the report, as well as rephrasing.

For example, the sentence, "no mass rally can be held without the government's permission" was rendered as "the government prohibits a mass rally that has not been previously authorized."

What was pointed out concerning freedom of assembly last year was omitted. For example, "the state bans even

nonpolitical organizations, such as hometown social gatherings and alumni meetings."

Elimination of the Entry on "Cold Treatment of Those Repatriated to North Korea":

The article, "Guarantee of the inviolability of an individual's private life, residence and correspondence which was stipulated in the Constitution does not reflect the reality. The government depends on the system of a broad network of intelligence agents in an attempt to seek critics and those with a potential to cause trouble," was prescribed in the last part of the 1993 report. However, it was written up in the beginning of the chapter, "Unreasonable infringement of one's private life, family, and household and on freedom of correspondence." And then, the article stating that "in some cases, all family members are to be imprisoned because of suspicion of political crime committed by one of the family members" was newly added.

We are under the impression that a handy way was used merely to give a new image by changing the order of articles while explaining the situation vaguely and eliminating specific entries.

Concerning freedom of religion, the 1993 report stated that "Kim Il-song, his family, and the chuche idea have been upheld, and worship of the Kim Il-song family reached even the stage of a state religion. The regime appeared to be seeking even a theological basis in an attempt to harmonize Kim Il-songism and Christianity." However, this article was omitted in the 1994 report.

The 1993 report included an article about the cold treatment of those who came to North Korea. However, it was eliminated this time. It states as follows:

"Most of those who were repatriated to North Korea and their families were placed in indoctrination courses. They suffered cold treatment. Since this fact became known to foreign countries, voluntary return to North Korea was suspended. However, it seems that the treatment of Japanese spouses has improved in recent years. Obviously, this was because their relatives in Japan sent foreign currency of which North Korea is short. The amount is estimated to be approximately \$600 million a year.

Some articles, favorable to North Korea, were eliminated in the 1994 report. One of them is, for example, that "visitors to Pyongyang reported that children wore good clothes and the general public usually enjoys good food. No child beggars and no children's labor plants were reported. In Pyongyang, two children's parks and one department store are provided for the children's use."

The human rights report on each nation has been prepared every year according to the foreign assistance law and submitted to Congress. The report works as a lever for U.S. foreign policies. This being the case, governments of foreign countries that have pending political and economic issues with the United States, the governments of developing countries that receive assistance from the United States, in particular, pay great attention to the report.

The report of the U.S. State Department on human rights in the ROK covering the period from the seventies, when the U.S. military assistance and human rights oppression by the Yusin regime [former President Pak Chong-hui government] were entangled, to 1987, when the 29 June declaration [on the direct presidential election system and labor movement liberalization] was announced, attracted the particular attention of the people.

It was true that the ROK Government has been anxious about to what degree the report would handle the problem while a considerable number of people, including dissidents, had expectations for the report as to what extent the United States would make an issue of matters which they can hardly utter at home.

Pak Kon-u, the new ROK ambassador to the United States who arrived in Washington in late January, served as political councilor and minister for political affairs in the ROK Embassy in the United States from 1973 to 1981. While serving in these positions, he was held in suspense whenever the human rights report was made public. Thus, he can be said to be a living witness of human rights diplomacy. At an informal luncheon meeting with Washington-based ROK correspondents after the human rights report was published, he answered the questions raised by the correspondents as follows:

[Unidentified reporter] The U.S. State Department's human rights report carries a 20-page-long report on the ROK. However, the report on North Korea is only 10 pages long.

[Pak] We must pay attention to the fact that sharp, severe statements are seen in many parts of the report on North Korea's human rights issue. It is unimportant whether the report is long or short.

[Reporter] Will the United States continuously make an issue of the ROK's National Security Law?

[Pak] The report on human rights may raise questions about anything and any matter, if necessary, depending on one's own view. Compared to the past when I took great pains regarding the human rights report, the situation has greatly changed. The words regarding the National Security Law itself were reduced to a great extent in this year's report, compared to last year's. From its own stand, the United States pointed out "our situation" naturally. We can do the same. [end Pak remarks]

The influence of the U.S. report on the human rights issue in the ROK, which is ruled by a civilian president elected democratically, cannot but be limited. However, there are still some circles who regard the report as "a message of salvation" like in the past. This is because the report makes an issue of the National Security Law.

The law, which even the president who came to power after struggling for democracy as the leader of an opposition party, cannot take lightly, must have the justification characteristic of the ROK. And this is why the insincere U.S. report on North Korean human rights weighs on our mind. We feel that the United States should provide accurate and realistic information for the people who ought to read the report on North Korean human rights first before they read and argue about the report on the ROK's human rights.

One of our reporters asked a question on whether the U.S. side, in preparing the report, intended not to irritate the people in Pyongyang in order to find a solution to the nuclear problem. To this, a U.S. State Department official answered as follows:

"Such a point of view itself is unreasonable, because you will notice many severe, sharp expressions in the report which would be painful for North Korea. In his remarks, Assistant Secretary Shattuck sharply pointed out the real situation of North Korean human rights. In the event that the liaison offices are established and our people go to Pyongyang, we will be able to add many new facts."

North Decides To Close Five Overseas Missions

SK0304075995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0750 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— North Korea recently decided to close down its embassies in Hungary, Portugal, Tunisia, Cameroon and Burkina Faso this month apparently due to financial difficulties, South Korean Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

North Korean embassies in several more African and Central American countries will also be closed in the future, according to the officials.

The ministry said that North Korea has already shut down embassies in 14 countries, including 10 in Africa, since 1990.

Among those 14 are embassies located in Somalia, Gabon, Niger, Sudan, the Ivory Coast, Malta, Norway, Albania and Jamaica.

The ministry attributed the reduction in the number of North Korean overseas missions to a shortage of foreign currency.

It appears that North Korea is shifting its foreign policy focus from the nonaligned and socialist countries to the Western world, especially after it struck a nuclear deal with the United States last October, according to an official.

North Korea currently runs 76 missions abroad including 62 embassies, three consulate generals and 11 permanent representatives, he said. South Korea operates 141 overseas missions.

Five Officials of Major Firms Visit DPRK

SK0304112295 Seoul YONHAP in English 1106 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— Five businessmen from two leading South Korean firms have recently visited North Korea to discuss economic cooperation projects, the National Unification Board said Monday.

They were Pak Kyo-u and another from Hyosung Corp. Hong Kong Inc. and Kim In-su and two others from Cheil Foods and Chemicals' locally incorporated firm in Hong Kong.

In Pyongyang, the businessmen met Kim Mun-song, chief secretary of the Committee for Promotion of External Economic Cooperation, and other Pyongyang officials to discuss ways to promote joint economic projects, a board official said.

The projects discussed included expanded trading of zinc ingots and nonferrous metal, and possible processing in North Korea of apparel and foods on commission.

They also visited some industries in the Pyongyang, Nampo and Sinpyong areas, the official said.

Trade Between DPRK-PRC 'Greatly Reduced'

SK0304034295 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 2

[By reporter Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] Exports and imports with the PRC for 1994, which is North Korea's greatest ally and largest trading partner, have been greatly reduced compared with 1993. Thus, it is felt North Korea's economic crisis will be all the more intensified.

In 1994, North Korea's overall foreign trade showed a decline. In particular, it was revealed on 2 April by the National Unification Board [NUB] that exports to the PRC, North Korea's largest trading partner, were reduced by 31.9 percent, and imports from the PRC were reduced by 29.2 percent compared with 1993.

NUB analyzed that with the decline in trade which the PRC, which is North Korea's most important trading partner in foreign economic relations, the continued deterioration in foreign trade, which has been declining due to the collapse of the old Soviet Union and socialist bloc, will be inevitable for the time being.

In particular, the volume of steel exports, which occupied the largest share of exports to the PRC, declined by 36.3 percent, and coal declined by as much as 81.7 percent in 1994 compared with the same period the year before.

This proves that since North Korea's energy crisis is at its worst, it is impossible for Pyongyang to supply coal needed by the PRC.

Also, among the entire volume of trade in 1993, imports from the PRC of grain such as corn was 16.2 percent, declining to 6.2 percent in 1994. The volume of grain imports for 1994 declined by 75.4 percent compared with the year before.

Along with this, in 1994 North Korea's main imports—including saccharoid, sugar, cookies, and milling industrial products—were excluded from North Korea's 10-main import products, while imports of plastic and chemical products increased considerably.

Underground Religious Activities in North Viewed SK0104133795 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 1 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Korean-American Priest Isaac by reporter Choe Won-ki place and date not given—first three paragraphs are CHUNGANG ILBO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reverend Isaac, 50, who has led the Motungidol church—a missionary organization in North Korea—for 10 years, stated: "We were greatly impressed by the Catacombs, an underground cemetery, where the first Christians began their divine service 2000 years ago, to escape from the Roman Empire's persecution. However, we do not need to go there right now, because a modern-style Catacombs exists in North Korea. The presence of underground churches in North Korea is a matter of consciousness of our whole nation, not a mere religious matter in North Korea."

At first, Reverend Isaac was reluctant to talk about the underground churches in North Korea, because it is most likely that North Korean Christians would be executed if the underground churches were discovered. Considering this, we have decided not to disclose details about them, including names of persons and areas related to the underground churches. For this reason, we carry his caricature instead of his picture.

Reverend Isaac, who was born in Hwanghae Province, is a Korean- American with U.S. citizenship. Since confirmed as reverend in the United States in 1982, Reverend Isaac has so far sent North Korea approximately 200 tons of bibles, hymns, and missionary papers, calling himself a "Smuggler of Gospel." The following is the interview with Reverend Isaac.

[Choe] What is the actual situation of the underground churches in North Korea?

[Isaac] Right now, there are approximately 30,000 underground Christians in North Korea. Services are conducted in the form of a man-to-man organization [chomjojik]. Of these people, there are some general-grade officers of the People's Army, as well as cadres of the communist party [kongsandang]. Of course, they

cannot even dream of holding an organized meeting or holding group services. We have obtained information that approximately 17 persons, at most, began to hold services in one place. Most of the underground Christians assemble in either a narrow garret or a raised border between rice fields in groups of two or three and recite the Bible or sing a hymn—set to the tune of song praising Kim Il-song—slightly moving their lips. This is a reality. It is their dream to more loudly sing a hymn, keeping a tune. As far as their ages, they range between those over 60 years old—who believed in the Bible even before the country was liberated from Japan—and young people in their teens.

[Choe] From whom do they get Bibles and hymns?

[Isaac] The number of Bibles and hymns are very small compared to the number of believers in underground churches. Therefore, elders sing hymns they have learned by heart in the past. And, some people sing hymns by following the words written on their notebooks. If a Bible comes from outside accidently, then several persons take turns to handcopy it. Once, I met with a young boy, 17 years old, who is a Christian of an underground church. I was very sad to hear that his dream is to have his own Bible. Also, there are considerable number of Christians who secretly read a tattered Bible after taking it from an old vase in which they had hidden to avoid prosecution in the fifties. In rural communities, one or two believers go deep into the forest to pray making a cross using branches of a tree. In recent days, a foreign priest, who visited North Korea, administered baptism to an underground church believer. using water from a battered pan.

[Choe] What is the significance of the underground church and the difficulties in carrying out the missionary work in North Korea?

[Isaac] Under the present situation in which the communist bloc collapsed, the North Korea underground church is the only modern- style Catacombs that exists throughout the world. This is a matter of our brothers and sisters. Therefore, we should never ignore it. In particular, because the North Korean situation is very difficult, we do not know when North Korea will collapse. If North Korea collapses, at least, 4 or 5 million people will come down to South Korea. Therefore, we should help now those who are in a difficult position. Then, we may tell them after reunification that we remembered them during their difficult times. Even if it is difficult to specifically disclose the missionary work in North Korea, various missionary activities are being carried out in North Korea right now. Along with the Bible study for believers, we are sending Bibles to North Korea via a third country. At the same time, we are carrying out the work to fly approximately 100,000 missionary papers to North Korea via balloons every year. Besides this, we pray every night so that we can air the missionary work to North Korea. It is true, however, that in carrying out this work, we face many difficulties as a result of the government authorities' strong attitude, as well as the lack of funds.

Reverend Isaac was in tears at the end of these remarks.

Government Examines Cardinal Kim Visit to North

SK0304075295 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Choe Won-ki]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid the disclosure of the true nature of North Korea's underground churches by CHUNGANG ILBO, the government is positively examining Cardinal Stephen Kim Su-hwan's visit to North Korea in May. This is attracting much interest.

A high-ranking government official revealed on 3 April: "If the light-water reactor issue is resolved smoothly, it is the government's policy to allow domestic religious and cultural figures, including Cardinal Kim, to visit North Korea."

In connection with the appropriate time to visit North Korea, this official said: "As 15 April is Kim Il-song's birthday, 21 April is the deadline for settling the lightwater reactor issue, and 28 April is when the Pyongyang festival will take place, there is concern that Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea may fall on one of these dates." Therefore, Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea will be possible after April when the light-water reactor issue is settled for the time being.

He also explained that if North Korea accepts ROK-type light-water reactors, South-North exchange, which is currently limited to South-North dialogue, may be gradually expanded to economic cooperation then to exchange of religious, cultural, and social organizations. This is the government's basic plan.

According to this kind of policy by the government, if the light-water reactor issue is resolved earlier than expected, active South-North religious exchanges including Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea can be realized sometime in May at the earliest.

In a special interview with a Catholic newspaper on 8 January, Cardinal Kim revealed his intention to visit North Korea by saying: "I would like to visit North Korea within this year if it will help South-North reunification on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of liberation."

However, Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea had been delayed up until now due to a rigid situation in South-North relations, such as rejection of ROK-type light-water reactors by North Korea and of a proposal for a South-North joint meeting.

Through the 1 January 1989 New Year address, Kim Il-song had officially invited Cardinal Kim; and on 5

March while visiting the United States, Chang Chaechol, chairman of the North Korean Roman Catholic Association Central Committee, had revealed the intention to invite Cardinal Kim to North Korea.

In addition, in 1975 Cardinal Kim was officially ordered by the Vatican to serve as acting archbishop of Pyongyang. Therefore, to support Cardinal Kim's visit to North Korea, the Catholic Church plans to unfold various movements.

The Catholic Seoul Archdiocese plans to carry out a reunification movement through prayer meetings, such as dedicating a mass every week from 2000 [year as published] at the Myongdong Cathedral "for national reconciliation and unity to achieve reunification."

Also, the Korean Catholic Laymen's Council plans to hold a prayer movement of all churches and movements to gather reunification funds to achieve South-North reunification ahead of schedule.

Newspaper Reports 'Cooling' Relations With U.S. SK0204063095 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 1

[By reporter Ko Tae-song]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 1 April that ROK-U.S. relations were cooling drastically because the ROK and the United States held seriously different views on supplying light-water reactors to North Korea and because the United States has placed increased trade pressure on the ROK.

The cool ROK-U.S. relations were clearly proven in that the two countries held different views on how to implement the North Korea-U.S. agreement, and that the U.S. administration overlooked indiscreet approaches to North Korea by U.S. businesses. Signs indicate this may expand into a full-scale diplomatic conflict.

An ROK Government source stated: "The United States and the ROK have different views on how to deal with the North Korean nuclear problem. In addition, with regard to various pending trade issues, the United States recently launched an offensive to open our market." He added: "Some in the government say we should extensively reexamine ROK-U.S. relations at this time."

At the recent light-water reactor expert-level talks in Berlin, the United States received a compromise proposal from North Korea that would exclude ROK-style light-water reactors. Washington is reportedly weighing the positions of both North and South Korea based on its own national interests.

At a time when the negotiations to sign a light-water reactor supply agreement and the implementation of the North Korea-U.S. agreement are at a critical stage, the United States approved of the U.S. Stanton Group's contracts with North Korea, and later allowed AT&T to

open direct telephone links with the North, thus speeding up the approach to North Korea.

After we accepted requests by U.S. businesses with regard to meat, sausage, and even dog food, the United States unhesitatingly threatened to file suits with the World Trade Organization and to take other trade-related retaliatory measures. The United States also reportedly asked the ROK to sign an ROK-U.S. investment agreement and completely open its investment market, which may shake our national economy to the foundation.

However, the ROK Government merely stresses the need to maintain the "ROK-U.S. cooperation system" and takes the U.S. actions easily. Therefore, people worry the ROK may lose a chance to mend ROK-U.S. relations.

U.S. Ambassador Meets With Kwangju Mayor 3 Apr

SK0304093695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0924 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kwangju, April 3 (YON-HAP)—American Ambassador James Laney exchanged views with Kwangju Mayor Kang Un-tae and three local civic leaders on the forthcoming Kwangju biennial and other issues for over two hours Monday.

The American envoy congratulated the city authorities on the Kwangju biennial slated for September and expressed a hope that Kwangju will emerge as an international city by hosting the event successfully, according to Kwangju city officials.

Laney was also quoted by officials as telling the local dignitaries that he understood that Kwangju citizens have strong anti-American sentiments in the belief that the United States was involved in the suppression of the May 18, 1980 Kwangju democratization movement. He reportedly said he was trying to dispel that anti-American sentiment.

The three people who attended the lunch, hosted by Mayor Kang, were Choson University President Chong Pyong-hyou, Kang Pong-kyu, Kwangju branch chairman for the Federation of Artistic and Cultural Organizations of Korea, and Yang Won-hui, Kwangju branch chairman for the Korea Federation of Small Businesses.

Meets Kwangju Civilian Leaders

SK0304013295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kwangju, April 3 (YON-HAP)—American Ambassador James Laney met with four leaders of civic movements here Sunday [2 April] afternoon in an effort to dispel anti-American sentiment allegedly originating from the May 18, 1980, democratization movement in Kwangju.

Laney met with Catholic Priest Pio Cho, chairman of the May 18 Memorial Foundation, Prof. Myong No-kun of Chonnam University, Kim Kyong-chon, secretary general of YMCA Kwangju, and Na Sang-ki, a farm movement campaigner.

Four other civilian leaders, including Chong Tong-yon, the ex- chairman of the May 18 Democratic Struggle Federation, declined invitation to attend the meeting.

The American envoy disclosed that he was trying to dispel anti-American sentiments in the Kwangju area which resulted from the May 18 incident, according to those who attended the meeting.

Laney expressed his wish to visit the tombs of those who were sacrificed in the uprising when an opportunity presents itself. He also expressed his wish to deliver a lecture at a university or social organization in Kwangju if invited to do so, according to the sources.

When commenting on U.S. negotiations with North Korea over the light-water nuclear reactor issue, Laney was reportedly optimistic about its progress.

However, he reportedly said the North Korean regime, centered around Kim Chong-il, is still undergoing various internal problems during the initial period of its power transition.

Priest Cho and others conveyed to the American ambassador the general sentiments of the Kwangju citizens hoping to resolve the May 18 incident.

In response, Laney said he was not presently aware of how those involved in the incident are being dealt with judicially, and that he was not in a position to comment on the matter.

Meanwhile, Laney is scheduled to discuss pending local issues with four Kwangju leaders, including Choson University President Chong Pyong-hyo, over a luncheon Monday to be hosted by Kwangju Mayor Kang Un-tae.

Following the lunch Laney is scheduled to leave for Taegu.

Police mobilized 70 riot and plainclothes officers Sunday to control any possible student demonstrations, but no incident was reported.

Official Cautions Japan on DPRK Talks Issue

SK0104054195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0535 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea urged Japan Saturday [1 April] to take cautious steps in resuming normalization talks with North Korea, reminding that the visit to the North by the Japanese ruling coalition's delegation was made when the North Korean nuclear issue is at a stalemate.

Mun Pong-chu, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asia-Pacific Affairs Bureau, briefed reporters

that the South Korean Government delivered to the Japanese Government its position that the normalization talks between Pyongyang and Tokyo could be used by the North to undermine the three-way cooperation among South Korea, Japan and the United States on the North Korean nuclear issue.

He said that the request was made late Friday when the Japanese Government informed the South Korean embassy in Tokyo on the outcome of the talks between North Korean workers' party officials and the Japanese parliamentary delegation during the past several days.

Japan promised that it will closely consult with South Korea on the timing of the resumption of the normalization talks with North Korea to take into consideration the pace of negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington on the provision of nuclear reactors to North Korea under the agreed framework in Geneva last October, according to Mun.

He expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Japanese parliamentary delegation only recommended that the Japanese Government resume normalization talks with the North, adding that the agreement made between the Japanese lawmakers and the North Korea ruling party officials is in nature not an agreement but a recommendation which is not legally binding.

A Japanese parliamentary delegation led by Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will visit Seoul Sunday to brief South Korean officials and lawmakers on the result of the recent visit to the North by Japanese lawmakers, said Mun.

Japanese Ruling Coalition Mission Arrives 2 Apr

Meets With Prime Minister Yi

OW0304024595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 KYODO—A Japanese ruling coalition mission led by Liberal Democratic Party Vice President Keizo Obuchi started talks Monday with South Korean Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku in efforts to get Seoul's support for Japan-North Korea rapprochement.

The mission aims to reassure lee that Japan will keep in close contact with his government over talks with North Korea to normalize bilateral ties and also hopes to obtain his support for the recent Tokyo-Pyongyang agreement, Japanese officials said.

Another ruling coalition mission agreed last week with the Workers Party of (North) Korea over resuming the long-stalled bilateral talks. The Obuchi-led mission will meet with other South Korean officials and leading politicians before returning home later in the day.

Agrees To Cooperate Over DPRK

OW0304055495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0511 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 KYODO—Japan and South Korea agreed Monday to maintain close cooperation over Tokyo's move to reopen dialogue with North Korea.

The accord emerged during a 40-minute meeting between a visiting mission from Japan's ruling coalition and South Korean Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku, coalition officials said.

Mission leader Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the dominant coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), briefed Yi on last week's agreement between the Japanese and North Korean ruling parties to seek early resumption of talks aimed at normalizing bilateral diplomatic ties, the officials said.

Yi told Obuchi that it is Seoul's basic position to reach complete agreement between South Korea and Japan on problems associated with the North and thus maintain partnership, they said.

The premier was quoted as saying the April 21 deadline for concluding a nuclear reactor supply contract between the United States and North Korea might be delayed. He added Seoul expects Tokyo to conduct normalization talks with Pyongyang by taking all developments into account as long as U.S.-North Korean talks continue on the reactor supply issue.

The reactor talks, based on a U.S.-North Korea nuclear accord signed last October, have been stalled in a dispute over what type of reactor to be supplied, with the north rejecting a U.S. offer to provide a South Korean model.

Obuchi told Yi that normalization talks will be left to the government but that the coalition parties and the government are inseparable, the officials said.

"We cannot leave South Korea behind. Friendship between Japan and South Korea is the basic rule and we will maintain this position in government-level talks (with the North)," he was quoted as saying.

Obuchi noted that last week's coalition delegation to Pyongyang stressed the importance of the U.S.-North Korean nuclear accord and the need for promoting North-South dialogue.

Yi voiced opposition to plans floated in the U.S. to make some concessions on the reactor issue, the officials said. "Making concessions would help hard-liners in North Korea," Yi was quoted as saying. "It is important to be consistent on principles."

The six-member mission is scheduled to confer later in the day with other government and ruling party officials, including Foreign Minister Kong No-myong. The mission, which arrived Sunday, will fly home Monday night.

Yi Expresses 'Strong' Position

SK0304064195 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0600 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku stated today that when we adhere to an invariable principle toward North Korea, the position of negotiation-supporters [hyopsangpa] in North Korea will be strengthened. He thus expressed his strong position on North Korea.

Prime Minister Yi stressed this when Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, and his group visited him today. He stated: Some people in Japan and the United States feel the North Korean faction supporting negotiations for reform [pukhanui kaehyok hyopsangpa] will be strengthened if we make concessions. However, in light of my experience, this is incorrect.

The expression of this position by Prime Minister Yi attracts public attention because it is a reaction to North Korea's unchanged position not to accept ROK-style light-water reactors.

Prior to this, Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, explained the result of the Japanese ruling coalition parties' visit to North Korea. He stressed that the timing and principles for the resumption of the normalization talks with North Korea have yet to be decided, and that improvement in relations between the two countries will be made based on close consultations with the ROK and the United States.

Yi Urges 'Consistency' With DPRK

SK0304091495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0856 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku has stressed the need to employ "firm consistency" in dealing with North Korea instead of making concessions.

"It is not the making of concessions in our dealings with North Korea, but the maintaining of a firm consistency in them that helps the reform faction in the North," Yi said in a meeting with Keizo Obuchi, visiting vice president of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, and his party.

Yi further said, "As to strategy of inducing changes in North Korea, some Americans and Japanese think it will help the North's reformist faction if we make concessions. But I think the contrary is the case.

"We all have to bear in mind that our concessions and flexibility will eventually benefit the North's hardline faction, and that maintaining a firm consistency in principles will help North Korean factions advocating reform and negotiation," Yi said, according to officials of the prime minister's office. Obuchi and his entourage arrived in Seoul Sunday requesting the prime minister debrief him on an accord that was reached in Pyongyang last week between Japan's coalition parliamentary delegation and the North Korean ruling Workers' (communist) Party, which is designed to resume Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization talks.

Noting that all inter-Korean issues, including the nuclear one, can be resolved through negotiations between parties concerned, Yi expressed a hope that South Korea and Japan will continue to maintain a close relationship. He made the remark, noting that "very important developments" are expected to emerge in the inter-Korean relations.

Yi stressed the importance of sequent order in dealings with North Koreans and hoped that Japan would improve its relations with Pyongyang in consultation with South Korea.

Obuchi told Yi that some Japanese and South Korean media organizations reported that Japan agreed to promote Tokyo-Pyongyang normalization talks "without condition and in an independent manner," giving an impression that Japan follows the North's assertions.

"But the Japanese delegation never said that Japan wouldn't discuss the North Korean nuclear issue or the importance of inter- Korean dialogue."

Explaining the use of the term, "independent manner," Obuchi was quoted as saying, "It means that Japan will judge Tokyo-Pyongyang relations in connection with its relations with the United States and South Korea."

"It is clear that Japan will conduct normalization talks with North Korea with the same firm friendship it has maintained with the United States," he added.

Disclosing that the Japanese Government, mindful of the light-water nuclear reactor issue, has not yet decided on a concrete date or the principles to be discussed if normalization talks are resumed, Obuchi said, "The Japanese delegation has definitely conveyed the Japanese Governments stance on the North Korean issue and towards the Washington-Pyongyang nuclear agreed framework."

Opposition Leader Urges Prudence

SK0304111995 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Yi Ki- taek, head of the opposition Democratic Party, on Monday urged the Japanese Government to be more prudent in resuming normalization talks with North Korea.

"North Korea's basic strategy to deal only with the United States and Japan over the heads of South Korea is prone to set off a fresh confusion," Yi said.

The opposition leader made the remarks when a group of Japanese Dietmen called on him in a courtesy call.

The Japanese officials, including Keizo Obuchi, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party, have just been to Pyongyang to agree on the early resumption of rapprochement talks.

Yi stressed that North Korea's posture that inter-Korean relations are one thing and relations between Pyongyang and Tokyo and between Pyongyang and Washington are another, "Differs from our stand."

Noting that the North Korean nuclear question has now become highly unpredictable due to the light-water reactor problem, Yi said "It is a grave matter for Japan to decide to resume talks with North Korea under the circumstances."

Obuchi said he understands South Korea won't be opposed to relations improvement between Japan and North Korea. "At any rate, our basic position is that Japan-South Korea relations shouldn't be hurt," the Japanese official said.

Official Quotes Obuchi on Talks

SK0304093395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0921 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— Japan will consider the pace at which the Pyongyang-Washington nuclear deal is implemented before resuming normalization talks with Pyongyang in an effort not to undermine its friendly relationship with South Korea and the United States, according to a senior Foreign Ministry spokesman Monday.

Quoting Vice President Keizo Obuchi, of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), who visited Seoul Monday to brief South Korean officials on the outcome of the recent visit by a Japanese parliamentary delegation to North Korea regarding the resumption of normalization talks, Asia-Pacific Affairs Bureau Director Kim Ha-chung said that the Japanese Government has yet to decide on when and how to resume normalization talks with North Korea.

Kim, who attended a luncheon at the Lotte Hotel hosted by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong for Obuchi and several other visiting Japanese lawmakers, said that Kong reaffirmed the South Korean Government's position that normalization talks between Pyongyang and Tokyo should proceed in balance and harmony with the implementation of the Geneva nuclear agreement and the resumption of an inter-Korean dialogue.

Dismissing as a "mistake" the remarks made by Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono on a satellite television program that he expects the normalization talks to begin in April, Kim said that Kono might have mistaken April for May, about one month after April 21, the target date to conclude a contract for the provision of nuclear reactors to North Korea.

The Japanese may think that a breakthrough could come about a month after the target date, said Kim, who also added "even then, I don't think that the Japanese Government would do it on its own without consulting South Korea and the United States."

Positive Use of Negotiations Urged

SK0304082895 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Let Us Not Excessively Worry About North Korean-Japanese Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is concern in various aspects of the recently resumed contacts between North Korea and Japan for improving relations. In particular, people are concerned about the possibility that Japan's intervention at this delicate moment when North Korea is trying to play another adventurous gamble [ttohancharye mohomjuuijok tobagu] with the provision of light-water reactors will further confuse the situation.

We can understand why Japan does not want to be eclipsed by the United States, whose relations with North Korea are improving noticeably, and whose enterprises are expected to do business in North Korea soon. However, why should Japan hold talks with North Korea at this particular moment? This is why we blame it. In view of the result, it is believed that Japan is complying with North Korea's policy to contact Japan, while alienating the ROK, as it did when it contacted the United States.

This is why our government was concerned about the visit to North Korea by a delegation of Japan's three ruling coalition parties. It is naturally necessary for us to encourage Japan to prevent North Korean-Japanese contacts from running counter to security on the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, the government has newly asked the Japanese Government to adjust [chojong] relations with North Korea, keeping step with progress in resolving the nuclear issue and in inter-Korean relations. There is no room for controversy on this issue.

However, we are concerned about the possibility that the expression of our position will arouse the suspicion that we are trying to diplomatically isolate North Korea to achieve our own goal. If policy coordination [chongchaek choyul] between the Japanese and ROK Governments is well maintained, contacts between North Korea and Japan, as well as improvement of their relations, can favorably influence changing the situation on the Korean peninsula for the better because various dialogue channels will enable North Korea to listen to and be persuaded by the public opinion of the international community.

In addition, we already took the so-called South-North cross-recognition policy [nambukhan kyocha sungin chongchaek] long ago. I think we need to view North Korean-Japanese negotiations as an extension of this

policy. North Korea and Japan are going to resume negotiations suspended in 1992 after eight rounds of talks.

In light of this viewpoint, we should seek ways to positively use [kungjongjoguro hwaryong] the North Korean-Japanese negotiations that will soon be resumed through cooperation with the Japanese Government, instead of just worrying about it.

Seoul Studies Ways To Help Polish Delegation SK0204060195 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 1 April that the government is considering ways for the Polish delegation to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission [NNSC], deported by North Korea in March, to continue its duties as an NNSC member, stationing them near the Swedish and Swiss camps in Panmunjom within the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] or at the Polish Embassy in Seoul.

The Polish delegation reportedly expressed to the PRC its desire to permanently stay in the PRC, but Beijing refused. Thus, it held negotiations with our side and is seeking a method to permanently remain in the ROK.

An official at the National Unification Board stated: "The Polish delegation was supposed to be stationed in the northern portion of the DMZ near the Military Demarcation Line. According to the armistice agreement, the NNSC is allowed to be located at any location where it is able to fully assist the Military Armistice Commission."

The official added: "The government originally considered a way for the Polish delegation to be stationed in Warsaw. However, this has been determined to be inappropriate because of the long geographical distance between Warsaw and Panmunjom."

He continued: "The absence of the Polish delegation from the NNSC would make the committee lose its neutral characteristics since only the Swiss and Swedish delegations designated by the United Nations Forces will remain there." The official added: "The Polish Government also notified us of its firm position that the armistice agreement is still valid and that it will continue to carry out its duties."

Seoul: Multilateral Investment Accord 'Desirable' SK0204110395 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has officially proposed signing the "ROK-U.S. Investment Agreement," a bilateral agreement similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement. The government, however, has indirectly expressed its intention to refuse it, saying: "It is desirable to discuss a multilateral investment agreement rather than a bilateral one."

According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on 1 April, during the ROK-U.S. vice ministerial-level meetings held in Washington on 28 March, the United States officially proposed signing the ROK-U.S. Investment Agreement in order to check the follow-up steps of the Dialogue for Economic Cooperation. Through this agreement, the United States suggested that the ROK should treat U.S. investment enterprises the same way it does ROK enterprises; that it should take steps so that the U.S. enterprises do not have to get approval or permission from each individual government department after their investment is authorized; that it should allow the U.S. firms to freely move their capitals according to their investment; and that it should design procedures to settle conflicts in the event they occur.

Regarding this, the government has conveyed to the United States its position that it would be undesirable to discuss the bilateral agreement because, presently, the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development is discussing a multilateral investment agreement and because the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council is discussing the liberation of trade investments.

The government has signed an investment guarantee agreement with some developing countries, including China, but it has not signed an investment agreement that guarantees special privileges for their companies. Presently, the United States has signed the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

It was reported that the ROK-U.S. investment agreement was not a matter that should have been discussed during the Dialogue for Economic Cooperation, but the U.S. side raised the issue at the end of the agenda coordinating meeting.

South Consuls General in U.S. Hold Meeting SK0104051895 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, March 31 (YON-HAP)—This year's conference of South Korean consul generals stationed in the United States was held in Washington Friday [31 March].

South Korean Ambassador to Washington Pak Kon-u and 12 other consul generals attended the closed meeting in which they discussed such issues as ethnic-Korean residents' of the United States participating in the government's globalization policies, missions promoting activities that will enhance trade with the United States, and improving service for Korean nationals living abroad, an embassy official said.

The participants also exchanged ideas on ways to improve the Korean community's solidarity in preparation for the projected opening of a North Korean liaison office here, the official added.

Moscow Probes Possible Poison Gas Connection SK0204041295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0304 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 2 (YONHAP)— The Russian Government has learnedly instructed its embassy in Seoul to probe whether or not Russian-made raw materials possibly used for poison gases had been brought into South Korea, a diplomatic source here said Sunday [2 April].

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told that Moscow has recently ordered its embassies worldwide to probe transactions of Russian-produced chemical materials with local dealers, current conditions of suspicious Russian dealers overseas and possible infiltration of the Japanese Aum Supreme Truth.

The denomination is learnedly accused of playing a crucial role in the nerve gas attack that shocked Japan and the world community.

"As far as I am aware, Moscow gave the order shortly after it came under severe international criticism that materials for the nerve gas attack in Tokyo have reportedly been made in Russia and spirited out of the country," the source explained.

"Moscow seems to believe that there is a high possibility for the materials used for production of poison gases to be shipped out of Russia into neighboring countries including Korea," the source said, adding that the Russian Embassy's expected to submit a report after the probes.

In this regard, the source said, the Russian Embassy in Seoul has undertaken probes into possible dealings of Russian-made chemical materials for poison gases with Korean agents and asked the Korean Government to find out whether or not the Aum Supreme Truth has sneaked into Korea.

Particularly, the Russian Embassy has learnedly asked the Korean Justice Ministry for a list of suspicious Russian nationals who have resided for more than one month in an effort to delve into their past careers and actions.

Hyundai 1st Korean Firm To Supply Ship to PRC SK0204011895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. has become the first Korean shipbuilder to export a ship to China as it delivered a carrier for 2,200 20-foot containers to Sino-Trans Co. Friday [31 March].

Hyundai is building two more ships for China—another 40 million dollar container ship for Sino-Trans Co. and an coal carrier for Shougang Corporation.

The ship, christened "Trade Maple", will ply the Southeast Asia-Europe lane.

Kim Holds Summit With Bulgarian President Zhelev

SK0304055695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— President Kim Yong-sam held a summit meeting with Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev Monday [3 April] morning in which the two leaders exchanged views on the current international situation and ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

Kim and Zhelev expressed their satisfaction with the development of bilateral, friendly and cooperative relations, in several fields, which the two countries have achieved during the relatively short period of time that has passed since they've formed diplomatic relations back in February 1990.

The presidents agreed to further strengthen their countries future practical and cooperative relations on the bases of trust and friendship.

President Kim explained to the Bulgarian president the South Korean Government's efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear reactor issue, and its efforts to secure peace on the Korean peninsula.

Bulgarian President Zhelev expressed his support for the South Korean efforts to secure peace and further said his country will formally support South Korea's bid to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. He also stated he would support Seoul's bid to host the 2002 World Cup soccer finals.

President Zheiev explained that Bulgaria is trying to strengthen its relations with the European Union, as well as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and hoped that South Korea and Bulgaria would further cooperate with each other on the international level.

President Kim promised that Seoul will actively support Bulgaria's bid to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).

President Zhelev is scheduled to attend a luncheon at Lotte Hotel, hosted by South Korean business leaders, after the summit. He's also scheduled to tour a Daewoo motor factory in Pupyong, Inchon.

The Bulgarian president will attend a dinner hosted by President Kim at Chongwadae [presidential offices]. President Zhelev will also hold talks with House Speaker Hwang Nak-chu and other leaders in the National Assembly on Tuesday morning.

Hosts State Banquet for Zhelev

SK0304115695 Seoul YONHAP in English 1139 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— President Kim Yong-sam hosted a state banquet for visiting Bulgarian President and Mrs. Zhelyu Zhelev at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Monday evening.

President Kim said in a table speech at the dinner he feels the sense of comradeship toward the Bulgarian president especially because he had led democratization reforms in Bulgaria.

Kim then disclosed a plan to positively promote economic cooperation with Bulgaria taking advantage of South Korea's development knowhow and Bulgaria's personnel and material resources.

President Zhelev, in his speech, praised South Korea's economic development, saying, "What the Republic of Korea has achieved were so marvelous as to be called a Korea miracle."

Meanwhile, President Zhelev visited the Pupyong plant of the Daewoo Motor Co. earlier in the day, where he, escorted by Daewoo Chairman Kim U-chung, observed car assembly lines and the models of various cars and other Daewoo vehicles.

Daewoo motor has exported about 6,500 cars to Bulgaria since September 1992.

Seoul Invited to Oct Nonaligned Nations Summit SK0104063095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0606 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Colombia on Saturday [1 April] invited South Korea to the October summit meeting of nonaligned countries to be held in the resort city of Cartagena of the South American country. Columbia hopes that South Korea will share its 30 years experience of economic growth with the other nonaligned states, according to Colombian Vice President Humberto de la Calle.

Meeting with reporters just prior to departing Seoul, where he stayed for the past four days, the Colombian vice president said that most nonaligned countries want to have special relations with South Korea in order to learn how it created and managed the quick economic development which South Korea experienced during the past decades.

"I had conveyed a formal invitation as Colombian president, and as the president of the chaircountry of the Cartagena Nonaligned Movement Summit, when I met with South Korean President Kim Yong- sam," said Calle. He, however, said that he was not sure whether South Korea will attend the summit.

In a news conference held in Spanish, Calle said that South Korea was invited to the nonaligned summit as a "special status" country, adding that China will attend the meeting as an observer.

He also said, during his stay here, that he reaffirmed Colombia's position of officially supporting South Korea's bid to become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

When asked about the Colombian Government's position with regard to the confrontation concerning the North Korean nuclear issue, the Colombian vice president refused to show any support for South Korea's stance on the issue, saying "Colombia and the Republic of Korea just cemented bilateral cooperative relations during my visit here without referring to the nuclear issue."

North Korea is a full member of the nonaligned movement while South Korea has no special relations with the nonaligned countries.

He did however, request that President Kim support Colombia's efforts to join the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Kim replied that South Korea would consult with other APEC member countries on the issue.

Calle said that Colombia thinks the focus of international trade and politics is gradually moving towards the Asia-Pacific region.

He expects bilateral trade will increase during the coming years because the two countries complement each other's trade and natural resources, hoping the current trade balance will be leveled.

South Korea's exports to Colombia reached 240 million dollars last year while imports totaled 34 million dollars, he said.

He wanted South Korea to import more coffee beans, oil, wood, leather and coals while requesting South Korea lower its tariffs on coffee beans.

He said that Colombia has been launching programs to eradicate the rampant drug abuse, trafficking and production in Columbia and has increased efforts to change the cocaine fields into centers producing other grains.

However, he urged the United States and European countries to join its efforts against the drug trade, adding that the drug problem should be solved through international cooperation.

He charged that countries who are large consumers of drugs have never taken serious actions to thwart the money laundering and the secret operations, which send the chemicals needed to manufacture cocaine, to Colombia.

Just after the news conference, Calle flew to China, after which he plans to visit Japan and Hong Kong, his aide added.

Poll: Korean Image Abroad 'Not Very Favorable' SK0104014295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)— The foreign perception of South Koreans is not very favorable despite their country's high standing, a recent survey showed.

The poll, taken by YONHAP News Agency, queried 25 of the 30 Korean overseas information officers now at home attending an Information Ministry meeting from March 26-April 1.

The respondents said that the first step to improve the image is for South Korean tourists to show good behavior abroad so as not to leave a negative impression.

The information officers shared the view that as a whole, South Korean tourists tend to lack public morals, to be indecent toward local people, and to show off ungentlemanly conduct.

In particular, those posted in Asian countries said South Korean tourists should be more kind and humble towards local people.

Officers in the European area said South Korea should pay more attention to the issues of human rights, international peace, environment and assistance to underdeveloped countries.

The theme of the week-long information officers meeting was "Overseas Information Strategy in the Age of Globalization."

Hotel Investment Urged To Ensure World Cup Bid

SK0104034495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)— The government plans to lift the bank loan restrictions for hotel investments imposed on the country's top 10 conglomerates in a bid to win the bid to host the 2002 World Cup and to attract more foreign tourists.

A Culture and Sports Ministry official said Saturday [1 April], "The Finance and Economy Ministry has all but decided to lift the bank loan restrictions involving hotel investments by top ten business groups. It is expected that the lift will come during the latter half of this year."

In a related move, the Culture and Sports Ministry sponsored a meeting at the ministry last Tuesday to discuss ways of securing sufficient hotel rooms for the 2002 World Cup football finals. Attending the meeting were officials from the prime minister's office, Culture and Sports Ministry, the Bidding Committee for 2002 World Cup in Korea, Korea National Tourism Corp. and Korea Tourism Association.

The meeting found that out of 16 candidate venues for the world cup, only five cities - Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Pohang and Sogwipo - meet the requirements of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), and that the remaining provincial cities fall far short of the requirements.

Joint Military Tactic Exercise Scheduled 3-8 Apr SK0204051795 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 April, the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced it will conduct a joint tactic exercise of

the ROK Army, Navy, and Air Force from 3 through 8 April, focusing on a combination of attack and defense exercises, thus breaking from the past defense-oriented exercises.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff has taken this training policy to improve our military operational ability following the transfer of peacetime operational control from the U.S. Army late last year.

According to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the planned tactic exercise—the first large joint exercise with 80,000 troops since the transfer of peacetime operational control—will include new exercises such as surprise landing attacks by the Marine Corps and joint aerial attacks, as well as exercises supporting the Marine Corps' landing by the Air Force.

In the past, the joint tactic exercise used to be conducted twice a year, separately in the first and second half of the year, with inactive attack exercises; this was done out of concern over the possibility of stimulating North Korea.

NSP Opens Offices in 10 Cities Across Nation SK0204011095 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in

SK0204011095 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD English 2 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), the nation's top intelligence agency, yesterday opened offices in 10 more areas across the country to receive reports on international crimes such as narcotics-related crimes, smuggling, terrorism and forgery notes.

The 10 areas are Taegu, Taejon, Kwangju, Chonju, Chongu, Chunchon, Kangnung, Suwon, Chinju and Sosan, the NSP said.

An NSP spokesman said that the agency's move is to counter the growing number of international criminal rings which are reportedly trying to infiltrate into the country by taking advantage of the nation's openness and "segyehwa" or globalization policies.

The opening of the 10 offices brought the total number of NSP offices to receive reports on international crimes in the country to 15. Five other offices are in Seoul and port cities of Pusan, Inchon, Masan and Cheju.

Choe Refuses To Answer Prosecutors' Questions SK0304025295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 3

Apr 95
[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—

The prosecution, investigating the use of armed suppression during the Kwangju democratization movement of May 1980, is reportedly facing difficulties in its intense probe, as former President Choe Kyu-ha has refused to answer prosecutors' questions.

The prosecution has visited Choe's residence in Sokyotong, western Seoul, two times early last month in an effort to obtain verbal testimonies regarding the armed suppression of the civilian uprising which occurred during his tenure as president.

Choe is believed to have key clues concerning the background of the then Army leaders' decision to use military forces to quell the uprising. However, prosecutor's efforts to gain answers to their questions were in vain due to his stubborn refusal to comment.

Despite Choe's refusal to answer, however, the prosecution is determined to continue persuading him to give verbal testimonies on the issue, an official of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office said.

The prosecution is also making intensive probes into whether the then "new military elite" headed by former Maj. Gen. Chon Tu-hwan used coercive measures in connection with a series of controversial incidents in 1980.

The incidents include the expansion of martial law, the dissolution of the National Assembly, the establishment of the Special Committee for National Security Measures and President Choe's stepdown.

Yi: No Civil Servant Interference in Elections

SK0304061695 Seoul YONHAP in English 0554 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)— Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku Monday [3 April] ordered all civil servants to maintain a fair and impartial attitude so as not to give rise to any possible controversies regarding the administration's involvement in the June 27 local elections.

At a meeting which discussed steps to ensure disciplined civil service in connection with the forthcoming local elections, Prime Minister Yi urged all public servants "not to commit acts involving elections which make use of their public status, and to refrain from promoting pork-barrelling or policies liable to invite misunderstanding."

But Yi cautioned them not to cause any delay in the administration's routine work or planned projects because of the upcoming elections, and to consistently push ahead with major policy projects and provide satisfactory administrative services to citizens.

Referring to a possible administrative vacuum, Yi instructed that all replacements should be appointed promptly or the proxy system be utilized if heads, or senior officials, of administrative agencies run in the coming elections.

He emphasized the need for social stability during transition periods, and called for a stringent crackdown on violations of the green belt, illegal housing, illegal diversion of farmland, illegal business practices and disruptions of basic public order. Government Administration Minister So Sok-chae reported that a "code of conduct in performance of duties for fair elections," will be issued to all civil servants, and their compliance with it will be monitored until the local elections are completed.

President Orders Development Program for Cheju SK0104014095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cheju, South Korea, April 1 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed the governor of Cheju Province to make his best efforts for the comprehensive development of the island's tourist industries and facilities.

President Kim, now visiting the tourist island as part of his provincial inspection trip, gave the order after receiving briefs on the administrative report from Cheju Governor Kim Mun-tak.

Kim instructed the governor to expedite the overall development plan of Cheju Province to be completed in 2001, saying "Cheju has limitless potential to be a world-famous resort and is gifted with natural conditions for developing an international level of agriculture and fisheries."

He also called for the intensive cultivation of the province's agriculture by strengthening the competitiveness of Cheju tangerines.

Auto Manufacturers Experience 1995 'Brisk Sales'

SK0204011795 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Apr 95 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea's automakers enjoyed brisk sales this year thanks to a recovering economy at home and amid a stronger Japanese yen abroad.

Exports of vehicles by four major automakers totaled 250,326 during the first quarter of the year, up 25 percent from 199,872 the previous year.

The four companies are Hyundai Motor Co., Daewoo Motor Co., Kia Motors Corp., and Asia Motors Co., a subsidiary of Kia.

The four automakers sold a total of 601,528 vehicles at home and abroad in the January-March period, an increase of 21.6 percent from the 494,528 sold a year earlier, according to statistics compiled from the four makers.

Comparing the first three months' sales to the same period last year, Asia Motors increased its sales 54 percent to 17,348, Daewoo increased its sales by 25.2 percent to 109,631, Kia saw a 30 percent growth to 181,136, Hyundai increased its sales 14 percent to 293,413 vehicles.

First quarter statistics show that Hyundai exported 115,482, up 18 percent from 97,832, Daewoo expanded its overseas sales by 249.6 percent to 48,124, and Kia saw a 76 percent gain to 76,227.

A Hyundai official said that his company has upgraded its overseas sales goal from 460,000 to 480,000 this year as compact car Accent and brand-new Avante have become in great demand in foreign nations, including the United States.

In the domestic market, Hyundai also sold 6,328 Avantes with an ordering list already amassing 21,439 since the car made debut in early March. The 2,500-cc [cubic centimeter] Marcia is another new brand with 1,956 sold out of 5,650 orders since the appearance in mid-February.

A Daewoo official said that his company's sharp increase in sales was attributable to growing demand of its passenger cars in the United States and Europe.

Daewoo sold 47,501 cars in foreign market in the January-March period, up 255.5 percent from the 13,362 sold a year earlier.

A Kia official said that his company has seen consistent sales of Sportage cars overseas with some 3,000 units selling a month this year.

Thanks to an aggressive sales attitude, domestic sales have rapidly increased, the Kia official said.

* Automakers Said Diversifying Overseas Markets

952C008IA Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 13 Feb 95 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK has diplomatic relations with 176 countries in the world, but exports cars to 187 countries, including 11 countries with which it has no diplomatic relations.

This year the number of countries importing Koreanmade automobiles will increase by 11 to 198. The automobile industry is playing a full-fledged role as an advance guard in the counties with which we have no diplomatic relations.

The list of countries importing Hyundai cars is the same as the list of countries importing Korean cars in general. Hyundai Motor Company plans to enter the automobile markets in six former Soviet republics of Moldavia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan this year for the first time. It has also decided to enter the auto markets in Yemen, Palestine, and Afghanistan where fighting is still going on. The company will also reopen the automobile export channel to Taiwan, where the import of finished Korean-made automobiles has been banned since it broke off formal diplomatic ties with the ROK. Guyana, a country not well known to the general public, is also a target of Hyundai's export drive.

Kia Motors Corporation will expand automobile exports from 101 to 111 countries this year. Particularly in Africa, to which the company made its first automobile shipment of the year, it will penetrate automobile markets in Malawi, Liberia, Cameroon, and two other countries for the first time. Rumania, other East European countries, and the Marshall Islands are also in Kia's list of market penetration targets.

Last year Daewoo exported automobiles to 110 countries. It will add 30 more countries this year. As an initial step, late this month it will set foot in the European market from which it has stayed away because of its agreement with General Motors.

Already automobiles have been shipped out to their destinations. Sixteen West European counties excluding Iceland are the "hunting" targets. At the same time, Byelorussia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, another Soviet republic, Laos, Iraq, Turkey, Mauritius, and the Congo will become Daewoo's new markets. Daewoo plans to hoist its company flag in Yemen and the West Bank area also

Daewoo and Ssangyong set this year aside as the year for entry into the U.S. market. It will complete the establishment of a local corporation and a dealership network by the end of this year. The company plans to ship automobiles next year so that local sales may start in 1979 at the latest.

In the process of selling automobiles in many foreign markets, Korean-made automobiles have become the best selling cars in quite a few countries. Hyundai cars are the best selling imported cars in Australia and Puerto Rico.

A Kia model is the best selling imported car in the Brazilian market surpassing Besta. In Syria, Kia's truck Ceres model, suited to use in rural areas, tops the list of commercial vehicles. Daewoo cars have become the best selling imported cars in Iran, Lebanon, Algeria, and Nigeria.

* Automakers Said Expanding Strategic Agreements

952C0081B Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 13 Feb 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] The greatest change in the world's automobile industry these days is the booming trend toward strategic tie-ups.

Our automobile manufacturers have no strategic tie-ups with foreign manufacturers in the fullest sense of the term, but they are expanding the scope of partnership with foreign automakers in the form of joint development by moving beyond the stage of introducing foreign technology.

Hyundai Motor Company used to introduce technology from Mitsubishi in the form of senior-junior relationships until quite recently. But the New Grandeur model, which was put on the market in 1993 for the first time, is the first car ever developed jointly by the two companies as equal partners. The joint development was based on the judgment that in view of the relatively small size of the large-car market compared with the high development cost, it is more desirable to share the development cost with the partner. This type of risk-sharing strategic tie-up as between Hyundai and Mitsubishi is expected to spread among other automakers.

Kia Motors Corporation, like other automakers, has been busy trying to introduce automotive technology from Mazda, its partner. But it agreed to develop a large passenger model jointly with Mazda last year, and under the agreement a new model development project is currently in progress. This is the same pattern of tie-up as the New Grandeur development project, and it is an outcome of Kia's improved technological level. The large passenger car model being developed will take the place of Kia's Potentia and Mazda's Centia [as transliterated].

Kia is jointly developing a six-cylinder engine jointly with the former British company Rover, which has just been taken over by BMW. Kia was able to tie up with the company because it was in serious financial trouble. It has been learned that BMW will use the new engine when it is developed.

Kia plans to strengthen the Kia-Ford-Mazda tie-ups. It has been supplying Festiva Pride and Aspire Avella to Ford under an original equipment manufacturing (OEM) agreement. It will supply Sportage and Leo, a Sephia hatchback model, to Ford for sales in Australia. These last two models are the ones newly developed by Kia on its own.

It is common knowledge in the business world that advanced technology and strategic tie-ups are an essential strategy for a sustained development of the auto industry. This strategy not only affords automakers greater opportunities for technological development and marketing but also enables them to reduce expenses by sharing parts and selling each other's cars. In this sense, not only tie-ups with foreign automakers but also tie-ups with domestic manufacturers can boost the competitiveness of all the parties involved. Accordingly, a vigorous pursuit of strategic tie-ups is a basic policy of automakers.

*Auto Firms Set Up Overseas Research Institutes 952C0081C Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 13 Feb 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] The establishment of an overseas research institute by an automaker signifies its intention as set up a full-fledged system for localizing the development, production, and sale of automobiles overseas. When an automaker secures a stronghold at one of the world's leading automobile manufacturing centers, it makes acquisition of technology so much easier.

Another advantage is that it enables the automaker to better size up the trend in the preferences of the consumers so that it may develop automobiles best suited to the taste of local customers and actively push for the sale of those automobiles.

Hyundai Motor Company, which has automobile research centers in Detroit, Tokyo, and Los Angeles, will soon establish a local European research institute in Germany.

This institute, to be located in Frankfurt, will start research work on the whole range of auto manufacturing, including engines and chassis. The company plans to expand its Tokyo research center and is making a feasibility study to set up a research center in Yokohama.

Kia is currently establishing a large technology research center midway between Tokyo and Narita Airport in Japan. When completed, the research center will have eight stories above ground and two stories below ground on a 1,900-pyong lot. The total floor space will be 2,500 pyong. It will have a research staff of 150 to carry out research work covering the whole range of auto manufacturing. Kia also plans to increase the number of research personnel at its Detroit research center to 100 and expand its facilities drastically. The company will also expedite its Frankfurt research center establishment plan in Germany.

Daewoo Motors Corporation took over Woding [as transliterated] Research Institute from the world's renowned British auto research and development company, IAD, last year.

This institute, renamed Daewoo Woding Technical Center, is a large research center with a 400-man staff. In concert with Pupyong Research Center, the institute is currently engaged in a new car model development project.

In addition, Daewoo Motors has decided to establish a research center in Munich, Germany, and is currently enlisting a research staff including local personnel. The company also has decided to establish research centers in Tokyo and the United States. Ssangyong is studying the question of establishing overseas research centers.

Samsung plans to establish a European research center by 1997 and another one in Europe and one in the United States by 1999 to establish a "four-prong research and development system" in combination with its research center at home.

In the past the functions of the overseas research institutes of our automakers were limited to the level of collecting information regarding automakers in advanced countries. But in the future they will try to expand their research activities to the whole range of automobile engineering, including, of course, the engine and the power train. In particular, for the commercialization of research and development results, our automakers plan to change most of their overseas research institutes into a corporate form.

Yonggwang Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3 Starts Up SK0104034195 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Yonggwang Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3, with a 1,000-megawatt generation capacity, started operations Friday [31 March] after a seven-month safety trial period, the Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) announced Saturday.

The new atomic power plant, bringing the country's total atomic power generation capacity to 8,616 megawatts, can annually substitute a total of 9.5 million barrels of oil, a KEPCO spokesperson said.

South Korean companies were the main contractors for the first time in building the Yonggwang Unit 3, while U.S. businesses were subcontractors, the spokesperson added.

The Korea Power Engineering Co. was in charge of plant design and engineering: the Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co., of design and manufacturing of main components: the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, of nuclear fuel design: the Korea Nuclear Fuel Co., of nuclear fuel fabrication and assembly: and Hyundai Construction Co., of construction works, according to him.

The American participants were Sargent & Lundy, General Electric and Asea Brown Bovery-combustion Engineering, the spokesperson said.

The successful launch of the Yonggwang Unit 3, a basic model for South Korean standard nuclear model, will help South Korea keep up its central role in supplying light-water reactors to North Korea under nuclear accord between the United States and North Korean. It also is expected to give Korea a boost in promoting atomic business abroad, the spokesperson forecast.

Meanwhile, the government plans to build additional seven nuclear power plants by the 2006 to secure a stable electricity supply, he added.

Former Foreign Minister Kim Yong-sik Dies

SK0104011495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Former Foreign Minister Kim Yong-sik, the patriarch of South Korea's diplomatic circles, passed away at 9:15 PM Friday [1215 GMT 31 March] at the Seoul Chungang Hospital, southeastern Seoul. He was 82.

He was hospitalized last Tuesday with aggravated cardiac troubles.

Arrangements for his funeral will be decided through consultation with the Foreign Ministry, bereaved families said.

He is survived by three sons and two daughters. The eldest and second sons are history and pedagogy professors in the United States, while the third son is a businessman in South Korea.

Born in Chungmu, South Kyongsang Province in 1913, Kim graduated from the Law Department, Chuo University, Tokyo in 1938 and opened a law firm in 1946.

During his 33-year-long diplomatic career until his retirement in 1981, Kim served as foreign minister twice, national unification minister and senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs, deputy mission chief in Japan, and ambassador to the United States, Britain and the United Nations.

Following his retirement, Kim devoted himself to sports diplomacy serving as Seoul Olympic Organization Committee chairman and the Seoul Peace Prize Committee chairman. Until his death, he had also served as board chairman of the Korea and Chungang School Foundation, which runs Korea University and Chungang Middle and High Schools.

Kim authored the memoirs "Promises of the Dawn" and "Hopes and Challenges."

Burma

Reports Presented at National Convention Session BK0204123195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese at 1351 GMT on 29 March broadcasts a 94-minute program consisting of "excerpts" of proposal reports presented at the plenary session that day of the National Convention by representatives of the various delegate groups. The proposals concern detailed basic principles for the prescription of self-administered divisions and self-administered zones. The following delegates presented reports:

U Mya Thaung from Tada-U Township, Mandalay Division, presented the first part of the peasant delegate group's report proposing Konkyan and Laukkai Townships as a self-administered zone for the Kokang Nationals. He also presented his group's proposal that Ho-pang, Mong Mao, Pangwawn, Nampan, Man Hpang, and Tangyan Townships be formed into a self-administered division for the Wa Nationals with two districts.

Next, U Tin Shein from Chaungzon Township, Mon State, presented the second part of the peasant delegate group's report proposing that three townships—Namyung, Lahe, and Leshi—in Sagaing Division be prescribed as a self-administered zone for the Naga Nationals; Ywangan and Pangtara Townships in Shan State be designated as a self-administered zone for the Danu Nationals; the three townships—Hopong, Hsi-Hseng, and Pinlaung—in Shan State be chosen as a self-administered zone for the Pa-O Nationals; and the two townships—Namsang and Mong Ton—in Shan State be prescribed as a self-administered zone for the Palaung Nationals. He also presented proposals that other nationals with a substantial population be given a voice in the state or division's legislative and administrative affairs.

U Thein Aung from Minbu-Sagu Township, Magwe Division, presented the workers delegate group's proposal report to prescribe self-administered zones and division for the Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Wa Nationals.

U Gei Khwi Shing from Mindat Township, Chin State and representing the workers from Kachin and Chin States, presented the workers delegate group's proposal report commenting on self-administered areas and population.

Dr. May Win Aung Khin, professor of medicine from the Institute of Medicine-2, presented a report representing the technocrats and intelligentsia delegate group's endorsement of the basic principles proposed by the chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

Colonel Sein Win from the civil services personnel delegate group presented a proposal report reaffirming the population statistics of the immigration department which was used as a datum in determining self-administered areas. He also presented the delegate group's proposal on prescribing self-administered division and zones for the Wa, Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, and Kokang Nationals. He also tendered proposals that other national races not meeting the criteria for self-administered areas but with a substantial population be given a voice in the state or division's legislative and administrative affairs.

Daw Kyan, a member of the Burmese Language Commission and representing the special invitees delegate group, tabled a proposal report prescribing administered zones and division for the Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokang and Wa Nationals. She also presented proposals that other nationals with substantial population be able to participate in the state or division's legislative and administrative affairs.

U Gabriel Byan representing the Kayan Region Development Organization from the special invitees delegate group presented a report saying: "To prescribe self-administered divisions or self-administered zones for suitable national races after thorough debate and discussions at this convention rather than forming a commission for the purpose brings great joy to the respective national races." He also proposes to combine the Kayan region with Kayah State with slight alteration of the local boundaries, or shift Pekon Township from Shan State into Kayah State.

U Yan Kyar Kwei on behalf of U Yan Moe Lian, leader of the Kokang national races from the Northern Shan State Special Region-1, of the special invitees delegate group, presented the proposal report regarding self-administered zone for Kokang nationals citing their original proposal included Muse, Kutkai, Kunlong, and Konkyan Townships.

U Aung Myint, a Wa delegate from the special invitees delegate group, on behalf of U Kyauk Nyi Lai, leader of the Wa national races from the Northern Shan State Special Region-2, presented a proposal report concerning the self-administered areas. He notes: "We would like to reiterate that our proposal for the formation of a new [Wa] state at the National Convention is not to secede from the country. On one hand, it could reduce the military budget and allow downsizing of the military force. On the other hand, more military personnel could be utilized in local economic development activities. At the same time, we must have an armed organization—the defense services—with the ability to defend the peace building process."

U Min Ein from the special invitees delegate group, on behalf of U Sai Lin, leader of the national races from the Eastern Shan State Special Region-4, presented a proposal report concerning the self-administered areas. He

presented his group's proposal on the formation of three new townships—Mong Lar, Hsi Lu, and Nam Par—in the special region.

31 Mar Proceedings Reported

BK3103125295 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0630 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The plenary session of the National Convention continued at 0900 this morning in the Central Conference Hall of the President's Residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon. [Rangoon].

It was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, vice chairmen of the commission; commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; Vice Chairman U Tha Tun; work committee members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee; committee members; National Convention delegates; and local and foreign journalists.

U Maung Gyi of the Union Pa-o National Organization acted as alternate chairman at the meeting while Dr. Thaung Myint, member of the NCCWC; U Lei Kwe Chin of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party [SSKDP]; U Kyi Nyunt, representative of the national races delegate group; U Tin Maung Kyaw, representative of the peasants delegate group; U Bo Myint, representative of the workers delegate group; U Hla Myint, representative of the technocrats and intelligentsia delegate group; U Ant Maung, representative of the civil service delegate group; and U Ko, representative of the special invitees delegate group served as members of the Panel of Chairmen. U Khin Maung Myint, director general of the NCCWC Office who is responsible for the meetings, served as the secretary of the meeting.

First, the secretary declared the plenary session open and valid based on the attendance of 642 out of 683 convention delegates. To outline the detailed basic principles, delegates representing the representatives-elect delegates group presented their reports on the chapter on state structure relating to the prescribing of self-administered division or self-administered zones that will be included in drawing up a constitution.

On behalf of U Yan Kyin Maw, elected representative of the SSKDP, U Tun Myaing read U Yan Kyin Maw's proposal paper; U San Tha Aung read a proposal paper prepared by delegates of the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization; and Daw Sein Tin read a proposal paaper prepared by delegates of the National League for Democracy. The session was recessed at 1055.

When the session resumed at 1105, U Khun Tun U presented the proposal paper prepared by delegates of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy. The session was recessed at 1155.

The afternoon session of the plenary session of the National Convention is continuing in the Central Conference Hall in the President's Residence compound on Ahlone Road in Yangon this afternoon.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Official Discusses Issue of 'Fanatical Students' BK3103131295 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 31 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Siti Hatija Yusof]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Petaling Jaya, 30 Mar— Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim today instructed university administrators to take stern action to stop all fanatical activities among students.

The deputy prime minister stressed that fanaticism among students could destroy the structure of the universities and the country's public strength if left unchecked.

He said university administrators should not compromise with any fanatical students involved in demonstrations because this is not in accordance with the objectives and philosophy behind the development of universities.

Anwar said that despite the relatively small number of demonstrations conducted by students, no party should view the issue as insignificant. On the contrary, they should jointly and immediately face and overcome such issues.

He said: "We have a bigger agenda to develop the country and make society more progressive. As such, never compromise with any anti-intellectual student because such fanaticism could destroy our universities and social strength. Therefore, I wholly authorize the universities to take action and find the reasons for the students' involvement, who was responsible, the reasons these people chose to violate the regulations laid down by the universities, and so on."

Anwar said this to reporters after attending a Hari Raya [Id al Fitr] joint celebration with UIA [International Islamic University] academicians and students here today.

The deputy prime minister, also the UIA president, said this while commenting on the action by a group of 200 students from the university who staged a demonstration to protest the holding of the "Commemorating Islamic Culture Night" last week.

The function was suspended following the student demonstration in front of the stage at the UIA campus. The students stood in front of the stage where events were

being held and refused to disperse while chanting holy verses and calling for an end to the celebrations. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Ramos' Forensics Proposal for Maid Death Accepted

BK0204134095 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Singapore Government has accepted Philippines President Fidel Ramos' proposal to have third party forensic experts scrutinize and evaluate the autopsy report on the murder made on Della Maga. She was murdered in 1991.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says the experts are to look at the findings of senior forensic pathologist, Dr. Wee Kim Poh, in his autopsy report dated 6 May 1991. They are also to evaluate the joint recent comments of Dr. Wee and the director of the Institute of Science and Forensic Medicine, Professor Chow Tze Ching, on the findings of the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation's [NBI] exhumation report done last Tuesday.

The Singapore Government has given the Philippines Government a list of eight names of well-known forensic experts. It has also given Manila the names of three institutes of forensic sciences of international repute which can be approached. They are: the British Academy of Forensic Sciences; the British Association of Forensic Medicine and the National Association of Medical Examiners in the U.S.

Singapore has also proposed that a panel of three experts be appointed. Such scrutiny and evaluation by a panel of three independent forensic experts agreed to by both sides should be carried out in the presence of the Philippines NBI experts and the pathologist from Singapore.

Cambodia

King Sihanouk Issues Message on Health, Plans

BK0304052295 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 2 Apr 95

["Message to his people" issued by King Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing on 1 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] My prominent doctors have told me that my cancer could recur, although it has completely disappeared for now. To give me a chance to live longer, my doctors have repeatedly advised me to reduce my daily work schedule in Cambodia as much as possible, saying I should not do any hard work or work like I did in January, February, and March this year. Because of my age and health, I am unable and should not work hard as when I was 10 or 20 years younger.

My rest in Beijing, China—in the past and at the present time—has greatly contributed to improving the results of my blood and other tests as well as the results of the scrupulous examinations carried out by my doctors at the grand hospital in Beijing. The results of the tests are excellent and more reliable than those conducted in Phnom Penh. This discrepancy between the two tests is due to due to my overwork in Cambodia and my absolute rest while in Beijing.

My doctors further said it is essential to prevent other illnesses that could reduce my strength, thereby allowing the cancer to recur. If the cancer recurs, it will be uncurable. The chemotherapy will no longer yield satisfactory results as before and a new operation is impossible due to my (?unstable condition and age). My doctors said the only way that you, my beloved people, can take care of my life for a few more years is if I decisively trim my daily working schedule in Cambodia.

In May I will take an absolute rest at the Royal Palace. In June I need to return to the Beijing hospital to have a general checkup and a blood test. If the cancer does not recur, my rest in Beijing will not last long and I will be able to return to the beloved motherland immediately after the consultations.

My eyesight has also deteriorated; everything appears blurry to my eyes. I need a magnifying glass on top of my glasses to read. I need to wait a bit longer before an operation can be performed on my cataract.

Returning FUNCINPEC Group Calls on Sihanouk

BK3103125495 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] A FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] delegation led by Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, FUNCINPEC general secretary, and Pao Bunsroe, member of the FUNCINPEC Executive Committee, returned to Phnom Penh on the morning of 28 March after a three-day (25-28 March) official visit to North Korea at the invitation of the Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK].

During its visit the delegation met and discussed some important matters with WPK Secretary Hang Yanhip.

In their talks the two sides focused on relations between the two parties, FUNCINPEC and the WPK. Clearly, these are friendly relations that will be preserved and maintained forever and will be further consolidated and expanded.

On behalf of the prince krompreah FUNCINPEC chairman [Norodom Ranariddh], Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut thanked the WPK and the entire Korean people for providing all kinds of assistance to Cambodia and the entire Cambodian people.

Prince Kromkhun affirmed that FUNCINPEC expresses unswerving support for the Korean nation and government in their political activities to reunite the two Koreas based on peaceful means and the recognition of a single Korea. Furthermore, during this visit Cambodia vigorously praised the fraternal Korean people for their very advanced national construction under the correct leadership of Great Marshal Kim Il-sung and under the current leadership of Marshal Kim Chong-il.

On 27 March, the FUNCINPEC delegation paid a courtesy call to bid farewell to DPRK Vice President Yi Chong-ok. The delegation also visited centers as well as many old works and new ones that are being built.

It should be recalled that the FUNCINPEC delegation paid an official visit to Beijing, China from 23 to 25 March.

On 24 March the delegation led by Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut called on his majesty the king and the queen at their residence in Beijing.

Communique Issued on Hun Sen Visit to Thailand

BK0204094795 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 1 Apr 95

["Joint communique on the working visit by Samdech Hun Sen to the Kingdom of Thailand"—read by announcer; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand [KOT], Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]; Mrs. Hun Sen; and a high-ranking Cambodian delegation paid a visit to Thailand from 29 March to 1 April.

During the visit, Hun Sen held official talks with Chuan at Government House on 29 March. Present on the Thai side were: Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, [words indistinct] of the Cabinet; Praphat Limpraphan, deputy minister of agriculture and cooperative; Kopsak Saphawasu, deputy commerce minister; Dr. Thawat Wichaidit, general secretary of the prime minister; Dr. Pracha Khunakasem, permanent secretary of the foreign minister; Dr. (Wiwat Mongsamedi), senator; Dr. Akkharaphhon Sorasuchat, government spokesman; Dr. Sarot Chawanawirat, deputy permanent secretary of the foreign minister; Sakthip Krairoek, Thai ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia [KOC]; and other high-ranking officials. On the Cambodian side were Keat Chhon, state minister in charge of rehabilitation and development and minister of economy and finance; Sok An, co-minister in charge of the Council of Ministers' Office; Veng Sereivut, cominister in charge of the Council of Ministers' Office and tourism minister; Yu Hokkri, co-interior and national security minister; Tie Banh and Tea Chamrat, co-defense ministers; Tav Senghuo, minister of agriculture, forestry, and fishery; Pu Sothirak, minister of industry, mine, and energy; Uch Kim-an, under state

secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Eng Roland, Cambodian ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand; and many other high-ranking officials.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual [words indistinct] with the aim of strengthening the fraternal relations and close cooperation between the two countries and their people. Separate talks were also held between the ministers of national defense, interior, industry, and agriculture.

In accordance with these talks, Chuan and Hun Sen presided at the signing of two agreements: the agreement on promotion and protection of investment and the agreement on tourism cooperation.

Hun Sen also met with Thai personalities and businessmen at a reception in his honor hosted by Thai Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong, Hun Sen visited many important places in Bangkok and Chiang Mai Province, including the [words indistinct].

On behalf of the Thai Government and people, Chuan proposed that Hun Sen convey to King Norodom Sihanouk best wishes for longevity, good health, and great happiness. Chuan also conveyed wishes to Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh.

On behalf of the first prime minister and the Cambodian people, Hun Sen proposed that Chuan convey to King Phumiphon Adunyadet best wishes for a speedy recovery. Hun Sen also recalled Queen Monineat Sihanouk's invitation to Queen Sirikit to visit the KOC.

The Thai side recalled its recognition and support for the RGC as Cambodia's only legitimate government. The Thai side also welcomed the political, economic, and social development in Cambodia since establishment of the RGC on 24 September 1993. As a neighboring country Thailand wishes to see stability and progress in Cambodia; these are necessary for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Cambodian side expressed profound gratitude to Thailand for its active contribution to the peace process in Cambodia and for providing valuable aid to Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction. Hun Sen also profoundly thanked the Royal Thai Government for completely severing ties with the Khmer Rouge.

The Thai side also recalled its firm resolution to continue supporting the rehabilitation, construction, and development of Cambodia in accordance with Thailand's means, particularly with training and the development of human resources. The Thai side also provided information to the Cambodian side on the readiness to provide training in agriculture, (?health), and economic matters to 50 personnel of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces.

The two sides agreed that the development of rural areas and human resources is a major sector on which both sides should focus. To achieve this goal, the two sides (?pledged) [words indistinct] Thai [words indistinct] rural development center in Pursat Province. Thailand also agreed to provide assistance to repair the Preah Norodom Sihanouk Hospital in Phnom Penh as well as provide training and support with important material and equipment.

Thailand also agreed to look at the prospect of providing assistance to the Interior Ministry in training local administrative officials and tourist police.

The Cambodian side also proposed to the Royal Thai Government to consider construction of a hospital in Samraong in the provincial seat of the newly-established Oddar Meanchey Province.

The two prime ministers welcomed the agreement between their foreign ministers that led to the first meeting of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation, scheduled for Phnom Penh on 5-6 May.

Chuan welcomed RGC efforts to bring peace and stability to Cambodia and recalled Thailand's stance on the remaining problems in Cambodia as internal problems in which Thailand will not interfere.

The Thai side expressed concern over the continuing conflict in Cambodia which occasionally leads to the loss of lives of Thai villagers and the destruction of their property. The two sides agreed to exercise patience and to promote closer relations at all levels to avoid such incidents. The two sides agreed to hold more talks on the establishment of the border cooperation mechanism aimed at maintaining peace and stability along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The two sides agreed to further promote trade and people-to-people relations along the border and to consider reopening border passes at Poipet, Aranh, An Ses, An Ma, O Smach, Chong Cham, Koh Kong, Pak Klong, (Tha Loek), Klong Yai, and Preah Pralay, particularly at (Tha Loek)-Klong Yai, and Poipet-Aranh, where conditions are favorable for (?this opening). This issue will be discussed further by the joint committee.

The Cambodian side proposed to the Thai side to start talks on the agreement on consular affairs and the agreement on (?extradition). The Thai side expressed its support for this proposal and agreed that [passage indistinct].

Chuan recalled the pledge by the Cambodian side, stipulated in the joint communique during the official visit to the KOT by the co-leaders of the Cambodian Provisional National in mid-August 1993, according to which the Cambodian side agreed to respect previous legitimate business contracts between Thai businessmen and the Cambodian side and between Cambodian businessmen and the Thai side.

On behalf of the RGC and Prince Ranariddh, Hun Sen gave firm assurance to protect Thai investment in Cambodia in accordance with the clauses of the agreement on promoting and protecting investment between the two kingdoms.

For his part, Chuan assured that he supports Thai investment in Cambodia and will encourage Thai investors to do business in the KOC.

Concerning antiques, suspected of being smuggled out of Cambodia and subsequently seized in Thailand by Thai authorities, the Thai side stated its readiness to return these antiques if the Cambodian side can provide evidence in accordance with Thai law to prove that these antiques were truly taken out of Cambodia.

The two sides noted that the four countries along the Mekong River [words indistinct] Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, agreed to sign in Chiang Rai Province on 5 April an agreement on cooperation to develop the Lower Mekong Basin at a ceremony over Chuan.

Chuan welcomed Cambonia's participation in the treaty of peace [words indistinct] cooperation in Southeast Asia and informed the Cambodian side that Cambodia will be granted observer status at the next ASEAN ministerial meeting in Banda Seri Begawan in July 1995.

Chuan also supported Cambodia's participation in the ASEAN regional forum [words indistinct]. The two prime ministers agreed that Cambodian participation in ASEAN and in the ASEAN regional forum will further contribute to peace and stability in the region.

The two sides welcomed the brilliant results of the visit to the KOT by Hun Sen and agreed that frequent exchanges of visits by delegations from the two countries will further increase mutual understanding and fraternal cooperation.

On behalf of the RGC's first prime minister, Hun Sen invited Chuan to visit Cambodia. Hun Sen expressed gratitude to Chuan Likphai for the welcome and cordial reception accorded the Cambodian delegation.

Khmer Rouge Radio Notes Hun Sen's Thailand Visit

BK0204134995 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 1 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two-headed government continues to serve the policies of communist Vietnam and an alliance. It has further fanned the flames of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, threatening the regional countries' national security as before. Nothing has changed. At communist Vietnam and the alliance's behest, one-eyed Hun Sen has just made a visit to the Royal Kingdom of Thailand.

What was the purpose of the visit by one-eyed Hun Sen, an out-and-out purpet lackey and instrument of war of the communist Vietnamese aggressors and the alliance in Cambodia? Was it to improve relations with the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people? No, it was not.

Both Hun Sen and the two-headed government have never been aware of the need to improve relations. Why? Because Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Sar Kheng are all out-and-out lackeys of communist Vietnam. They have been used by the latter as instruments of its war of aggression in Cambodia since 1979.

Since 1993, the alliance (?has become involved with) the clique in further fueling the communist Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia. They have grabbed, gobbled, and gulped the flesh and blood of the Cambodian nation and people. This is why since (?1994), Ranariddh, who has become a dog of communist Vietnam's, has made an about-face in snarling frighteningly at and biting (?the Cambodian people) in a blatant and impudent manner.

The policy of communist Vietnam, which continues to invade and occupy Cambodia under the aegis of its puppets, and the policy of the alliance, which has colluded with communist Vietnam to continue fueling the flames of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and which has destroyed the Paris accord, peace, and national reconciliation in Cambodia through the two-headed government, are not only opposed to the aspirations of the Cambodian nation and people, but also the desires and interests of the regional countries, which want Cambodia to have peace and achieve national reconciliation. This is to restore peace in Cambodia and in Southeast Asia and promote regional trade cooperation, thus benefiting the national construction process of all regional states.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh, as well as his clique, still persist in furthering communist Vietnam's policy of aggression as in the past. Nothing has changed. Also, they continue to pursue the alliance and communist Vietnam's joint policy of furthering the communist Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia, threatening national security of the regional countries as before.

All countries in the region, which used to be the victims of and have bitter experiences with the clique, have told it that they want Cambodia to have peace and national reconciliation. This is to allow Cambodia and all regional countries to live peacefully, thereby eliminating threats to national security once and for all.

Philippines

Reportage on PRC Presence on Spratly Islands

AFP Journalists 'Confirm' Presence

BK0304051195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By David Botbol]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Above the Spratly Islands, April 3 (AFP)—The Chinese flag flutters prominently on Mischief Reef, a barren Spratly islet claimed by the Philippines and at the centre of a growing territorial dispute with Beijing.

The red flag with five yellow stars was unmistakeable on two ships anchored in a lagoon and on buildings put up by the Chinese across the sprawling reef.

AFP journalists were able to confirm that China had put up four large modern structures guarded by at least one military ship on Mischief Reef in a flight over the zone.

Philippines army chiefs revealed in February that China had moved onto the reef, 100 nautical miles away from the Philippines' southwestern province of Palawan and within the country's 200-mile (320 kilometer) exclusive economic zone. They released military reconnaisance photos to back their claims.

The confirmation came as China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) opened their first ASEAN-China dialogue Monday in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The talks are expected to include the Spratly dispute.

China has built four stilt-supported structures on Mischief Reef. Built from pre-fabricated materials, each has a Chinese flag on top.

The structures were spread kilometers apart around a belt of barely submerged sandbanks and coral reefs, which forming an arch enclosing a blue lagoon, where two large ships flying the Chinese flag were anchored.

The smaller ship appeared to be a support vessel without any visible weaponry. On the second, there were at least three covered pieces of cannon-shaped guns positioned on the upper and lower decks.

Beijing has claimed that Reef structures are shelters for fishermen. The shelters are, however, high quality constructions and there is also sophisticated telecommunications.

However, no weapons were visible on the structures and the few men, seen outside the platforms looking through binoculars and waving at the approaching plane, did not wear military uniforms.

The four clusters are similar and each comprise between three and six octagonal buildings. Filipino military sources said the structures were erected in late 1994 and are being used as "living quarters", probably for a small Chinese garrison.

The same flight went near older but similar stilted structures in the area west of the Spratlys already occupied by China. Nearby, was a more elaborate two-story fort built on the rocks. It also flew the Chinese flag, was equiped with a satellite dish and had two covered guns with barrels pointing to the sky.

Philippine military sources fear the Chinese occupation of Mischief Reef might be reinforced in the longer term

by the replacement of the light stilt-supported structures by similar fortified buildings.

Last week, Filipino forces destroyed several Chinese markers discovered around Mischief Reef on Thomas I and II Shoals, Half Moon Shoal and Pennsylvania Reef. They also arrested 62 Chinese fishermen on Half Moon who have been detained in Palawan.

The fishermen have been charged with illegal entry, illegal poaching using explosives and cyanide and detained since in the Palawan capital Puerto Princesa. Two Chinese diplomats who visited them Sunday have demanded the prompt release of the fishermen.

Filipino troops guarding Pag-asa, the biggest of eight Spratly islands occupied by the Philippines, 270 nautical miles from Palawan, fired warning shots at a flotilla of Chinese fishing boats, which came within a mile of its position in late March, witnesses told AFP.

The six fishing boats, which had been operating in the area for several days, immediately withdrew, the witnesses said.

The fishing season is at its peak in the Spratlys from January to March when the weather is good. The seas are teeming@with fish which attract numerous vessels from claimant nations, including Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Brunei as well as the familiar red-flagged Chinese vessels.

Military Fears PRC Entrenchment

BK0204122095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 2 Apr 95

[By David Botbol]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MANILA, April 2 (AFP)—The Philippines military fear China may reinforce its presence on a disputed Spratly reef—confirmed at the weekend by an AFP correspondent who flew over the zone, army sources said ahead of new talks Monday.

The topic will be raised during a dialogue between Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) representatives and China at the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The territorial dispute between Manila and Beijing has simmered since the Philippines in February denounced China's construction of shelter type building on the Mischief Reef, which is claimed by the Philippines. Last week, 62 Chinese fishermen were detained and accused of poaching in Philippines waters near around the Spratlys.

The Philippines showed reconaissance photos to back its claims of the Chinese presence on Mischief Reef, where the military fears China may erect more fortified buildings.

At the weekend, AFP journalists who flew over the disputed islands could see four large modern octagonal structures guarded by at least one Chinese military ship on Mischief Reef, 100 nautical miles away from the southwest Philippines province of Palawan. The reef is within the country's 200-mile exclusive zone.

The journalists saw four stilt-supported structures as they flew at low altitude over the Reef. The structures, flying the red and yellow Chinese flag, were built with pre-fabricated materials. They were [word indistinct] over several kilometers (miles).

There were also two large ships flying the Chinese flag anchored in one lagoon. One of them could have had weapons. But the men in the vicinity did not have military uniforms.

Beijing has said structures are simple fishermen shelters. But the construction is solid and and the telecommunications equipment sophisticated. Filipino military sources said the structures were erected in late 1994 and were living quarters, probably for a small Chinese garrison.

The Philippines government has made the Spratlys an important cause in recent days. It has warned Taiwan against sending a navy police patrol to Spratly zones claimed by the Philippines.

Filipino forces have also destroyed several Chinese markers found around Mischief Reef, on Thomas I and II Shoals, Half Moon Shoal and Pennsylvania Reef. The 62 Chinese fishermen were arrested last week on Half Moon.

They have been charged with illegal entry, illegal poaching using explosives and cyanide and detained since in Puerto Princesa, Palawan where two Chinese diplomats visited them Sunday.

Filipino troops guarding Pag-asa, the biggest of eight Spratly islands occupied by the Philippines 270 nautical miles from Palawan, fired warning shots at a Chinese fishing boat flotilla which had approached within a mile of its position in late March, witnesses to the incident revealed to AFP.

The six Guangdong-type fishing boats, which had been operating in the area for several days, immediately withdrew, the witnesses said.

The fishing season is at its peak in the Spratlys from January to March when the weather is best. The seas teeming with fish attract numerous vessels from claimant nations, including Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Brunei.

Official on Dialogue Plans

BK0304040795 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino says the Philippines will ask China to stop building structures in the Panganiban Reef at the Kalayaan Islands. Severino says the Philippine panel will

issue the call in today's dialogue at the first ASEAN-China [as heard] being held in Hangzhou, China. The two-day talks will focus on conflict prevention, trust building, and economic interaction between the region.

The Philippines and China will discuss the issue of the dispute in the Spratly Islands during the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations dialogue to be held in Hangzhou, China starting today. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino says senior officials from the Philippines and China will meet for two days on various issues involving the disputed territory, also claimed by other Asian countries. Severino says that the Spratlys is just one of the many subject matters to be discussed during the two-day ASEAN dialogue. Severino said that the dialogue will enable the Philippines to understand more on what should be done and what should be avoided.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo said the detention by Philippine authorities of 62 Chinese fishermen recently arrested in the Kalayaan island group for illegal fishing and possession of explosives is a police investigation and judicial matter. Romulo said that the latter takes its course. President Ramos has earlier rejected a Chinese Government demand that the Chinese nationals will be released. The president said the Chinese caught at Hasa-Hasa, or Half Moon, some 50 nautical miles from Kalayaan, and had violated Philippine laws. [sentence as heard]

Police Arrest Suspects Linked to New York Bombing

Seven Arrested

BK0204094595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MANILA, April 2 (AFP)— Philippine police said Sunday they have arrested six foreign Muslim men and seized firearms and bombmaking equipment, believed to have links with the alleged bombers of the World Trade Center [WTC] in New York.

In a separate arrest, police apprehended Pakistani businessman Tariq Rana on Friday in the Makati financial district partly on fraud charges but also because of an alleged connection with suspected international terrorist Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf. Tariq has denied any connection with Yusuf.

Yusuf was arrested in Pakistan early this year and extradited to the United States for trial in connection with the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Police arrested the six Middle Eastern nationals in nearby Caloocan town on Saturday and confiscated several firearms, computer diskettes and paraphernalia for making bombs like detonating cords, blasting caps and timers.

A police statement said the six "are believed to be affiliated with" Sheikh Abdel Rahman, the blind cleric who is being tried as the mastermind of the World Trade Center blast.

The statement, quoting a report to capital region police commander Chief Superintendent Jewel Canson, said those arrested were Syrian, Jordanian, Omani, United Arab Emirates, Palestinian and Lebanese nationals aged 26 to 28.

The six were identified as members of a little-known group called the Islamic Saturday meeting. Police, however, did not give details of their alleged ties with the World Trade Center suspects.

Philippine National Police chief Director General Recaredo Sarmiento in the statement that the "remaining members of the group" are being hunted and that charges of illegal possession of explosives were being readied against those arrested.

Yusuf was being sought for a plot to kill Pope John Paul II during a papal visit to Manila in January and was charged last week for murder for a mid-air bomb explosion aboard a Philippine Airlines plane bound for Japan in December in which a Japanese national was killed.

Police Identify Leader

BK0304011595 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 2 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Six suspected Arab terrorists were arrested by the Northern Police District [NPD] in Caloocan yesterday. NPD Chief Rex Pias identified (Hadi Yusef Agul) as the leader of the group and said he had five members. The suspects are aged approximately 20 years and above. Police confiscated passports from various Middle Eastern countries, several M-16 Armalite rifles, dynamite, and detonators at their Caloocan safe house.

The suspects are believed to be involved with the blind sheik, one of the suspects in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The sheik is currently being tried in New York. Authorities are also investigating their involvement with Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, one of the masterminds behind the World Trade Center and Philippine Airlines bombings and the plot to assassinate the pope during his visit to the Philippines last January.

Members of al-Islamiya

BK0304113195 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Philippine National Police [PNP] Chief Recaredo Sarmiento has ordered the arrest of al-Islamiya members, the group that reportedly bombed the World Trade Center and a Philippine Airlines plane last year. It will be recalled that six of the group's members were arrested recently in Kalookan.

Most of those arrested were Syrians, Palestinians, or Arabs. PNP operatives are now hunting down 10 more members of al-Islamiya.

Thailand

Council Rules Against U.S. Insurance Firm

BK0304011195 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 95 pp A1, A3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Juridical Council has ruled that the American-owned Universal Insurance Co is not eligible to convert its representative offices into individual branches, a decision likely to have broad implications in Thai-United States economic relations.

The official ruling reached last Friday means that the Thai government is unlikely to accept a request from the United States government to allow Universal Insurance, a subsidiary of American International Group (AIG), to open 11 branches.

Universal Insurance was incorporated as a Thai company but 99 per cent of its stake was later taken over by AIG. It has been fighting for the right to upgrade its representative offices into full branches since 1992, a contentious issue that has tested Thai-US economic relations.

The Thai authorities have argued that since Universal Insurance is 99 per cent owned by AIG, it is a foreign company and therefore comes under a restriction of the Insurance Act of B.E. [Buddhist Era] 2535, which prohibits a foreign insurance company from maintaining more than one branch office.

Informed sources told THE NATION over the weekend that the Thai government's legal advisory agency has interpreted the insurance company, known in Thai as Phaisan Insurance, to be merely a "subcontractor" of AIG and not a subsidiary of AIG, and therefore it is not entitled to increase the amount of branches.

The ruling will go to the International Economic Relations Policy Committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, for final approval, a source added.

AIG bought Universal Insurance from a group of Thai shareholders four decades ago.

AIG has made two points in its argument for permission to open branches.

The first point was that as the company is already registered in Thailand it ought to be eligible to open branches.

Secondly, the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations between Thailand and the US should also be a basis to allow Universal Insurance to open branches.

An American official said that he has yet to receive the report about Friday's ruling by the Juridical Council. Allowing foreigners to compete in the Thai insurance market is a sensitive political issue since Thai insurance companies are relatively veak.

AIG, which has circumvented the branch restriction by allowing individuals to set up representative offices to sell insurance policies on its behalf, already commands about half of the market share of the life insurance policies in this country.

The Universal Insurance issue has been high on the Thai-US economic agenda throughout the past three years. About two years ago Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon travelled to Washington DC and promised US and AIG officials that Thailand would allow Universal Insurance to open its branches.

AIG has argued that its request to convert the representative offices into branches is consistent the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations, which grants rights not available to other foreign nationals doing business in Thailand.

The source said that the Juridical Council has ruled that Universal Insurance is not protected by the treaty since Universal Insurance's current representative offices did not represent the AIG group.

The source said that Thai government has been considering updating some of the details in the treaty, which was signed almost 30 years ago, to meet current economic and social developments, as well as to treat all foreigners equally. The US, however, has asked the Thai government to continue the present treaty for an extra 10 years.

Sources said that the Universal Insurance issue has been prolonged because of support AIG has received from the US government. The Commerce Ministry has also received requests from other joint-venture foreign insurance companies, but they also are likely to be denied.

Officers Predict 'Heavy Fighting' in Cambodia

BK3103142795 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on an assessment of the situation inside Cambodia, the Thai Armed Forces believe fighting there will become more violent. At a press briefing today, Director of the Supreme Command Information Office Vice Admiral Kraithip Sirisombat said that Cambodian Government forces have kept up with efforts to put down the Khmer Rouge, despite the fact that government soldiers had been sustaining heavier casualties. The government, however, has poured in reinforcements of weapons and war materials. Unusual movement of tanks and fighters has also been detected. From its analysis, the Thai military predicts heavy fighting near Khao Phra Wihan.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Bandit Malai-arisun, 1st Army Region commander in charge of security at the Thai-Cambodian border area, said there is no reason for

worry and stated that he had never come across any narcotics trafficking by the Khmer Rouge soldiers. He said that heavy fighting inside Cambodia posed no problem to his unit because his soldiers had been on the alert.

As the fighting continued close to the Thai-Cambodian border, military and police officials stepped up measures to protect people in border villages.

Leaders View Opening of Cambodian Border Points

Chuan, Krasae Comment

BK0204134495 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 2 Apr 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government supports the opening of border passes with neighbouring countries but that cannot be done until national security and the safety of Thai people is guaranteed, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

Mr Chuan was responding to calls by Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen for Thailand to open five more border checkpoints to promote relations between people of the two countries.

The Prime Minister said it is Government policy to open border passes for local trade. However, the areas to be opened must be decided on jointly by the police, military and national security and foreign ministry officials.

"I told Mr Hun Sen that people on both sides of the border are like brothers and that I support the opening of more border passes. But what points would be opened depends on the consideration of authorities concerned," he said.

Mr Chuan, however, voiced support for the military's objection to the re-opening of An Ma Pass in Ubon Ratchathani on the grounds the Cambodian government has failed to make it clear which group was responsible for the massacre of 22 Thai logging workers of BLP [expansion unknown] Import-Export Co in that country last year.

Phnom Penh claimed the Khmer Rouge was behind the slaughter but that failed to convince Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit who demanded Cambodia produce evidence to substantiate its allegation.

Mr Chuan agreed An Ma Pass should remain closed until Cambodia is able to clear things up.

"We have to listen to the military since the issue concerns border security. Until the military sees that the situation is safe we will not approve the re-opening. The military's voice carries more weight in this case."

As for the prospect of Thai investment in Cambodia, Mr Chuan said the Government supports Thais investing in neighbouring countries but businessmen will also have to decide for themselves if their projects will generate good returns.

Mr Chuan said he reminded Mr Hun Sen that Thai businessmen were actually the first group that invested in Cambodia and they should not be "forgotten" when the situation in that country improves.

To boost Thai investment in Cambodia, the government must be able to give investors more confidence, he said.

The Prime Minister said the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Thai-Cambodian Committee on May 7-8 could produce some benefits but warned against putting high hopes on the talks.

Mr Chuan said it will be good that both sides have chances to iron out certain differences but there should not be expectations that everything will be cleared up after the meeting.

Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong said Mr Hun Sen's official visit to Bangkok, which ended yesterday, would benefit bilateral relations.

Dr Krasae said it is clear Mr Hun Sen sees Thailand as a friend who is ready to cooperate in the development of that country.

Army Chief Comments

BK3003185395 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Wimon Wongwanit, army commander in chief, said that regarding a request by Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of Cambodia, for Thailand to open five border checkpoints, the military will have to take public security and safety into consideration. He said: If the opening of any border checkpoint is beneficial only to a certain group of people, it will not be appropriate to open it. As for the border point at Chong An Ma, it is a border point where there are no trading activities between Thai and Cambodian people and it is the point where the massacre of Thai log company workers took place. If it is opened, it will be used only for moving the remaining wood; it will not be at all beneficial for the people in general. Therefore, so long as there is no guarantee of public safety and so long as the case of the massacre of the 22 Thai nationals has not been cleared up, it is not appropriate to open it. Regarding the case, it is necessary to examine the evidence before reaching any conclusion as to who is responsible for the massacre. The army has some information to hand. However, we would like to ask the BLC [Bangkok Logging Company], which knows a lot about this incident, to cooperate by giving additional information so that appropriate action can be taken. The facts about the massacre of the 22 Thai nationals must be established first.

The army commander in chief continued: As for the border checkpoint at Poipet, I agree that it can be opened

for trading purposes, as this point has been closely watched by the military. The army commander in chief has also agreed to a proposal for an opening of the border checkpoints at Chong Chom and Hat Lek. Regarding the Thap Phalai checkpoint, as it is located in an area under the influence of the Khmer Rouge forces and is the point from where foreign forces can sneak into Thai territory, I do not agree to the opening of this border checkpoint.

The army commander in chief also expressed the conviction that Cambodia is sincere in engaging in various activities with Thailand. However, it still has the problem of ineffective administration. It is evident that the governments and armies of the two countries have all along maintained good relations.

Cambodia's Hun Sen on Thai Loggers' Slaying

Claims KR Responsible

BK0204113995 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 2 Apr 95 pp A 1, 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cambodian Co-Premier Hun Sen yesterday submitted "evidence" to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai which he claimed would prove Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas were responsible for killing 22 Thais in Cambodia's Preah Vihear province, Foreign Minister Krasae Chanawong told reporters.

Krasae quoted Hun Sen as repeating to Chuan at a meeting Cambodia's statement that the massacre of 22 Thai loggers in Cambodia late last year was not the work of government troops but that of the outlawed Khmer Rouge.

"Hun Sen said (the massacre) was the work of the Khmer Rouge and that he has 'clear' evidence (to prove it). He said the incident took place in a Khmer Rouge controlled area, and submitted evidence to the prime minister today," Krasae said.

Hun Sen yesterday completed his working visit as a guest of the Thai government and departed for Phnom Penh, leaving behind a group of Cambodian Defence Ministry officers headed by Defence Minister Gen Tie Banh.

Krasae said Hun Sen's visit would strengthen Thai-Cambodian relations and showed that Cambodia still considers Thailand "a friend". He claimed that Thai businessmen now had more confidence in investments in Cambodia due to Hun Sen's assurance that his country is safe for investment.

The Foreign minister said the Thai side told Hun Sen that Cambodia should stop accusing Bangkok of supporting the Khmer Rouge, to which the Cambodian co-premier responded that his country has confidence in Thailand's policy.

Chuan told reporters that Thailand will consider Hun Sen's call for the re-opening of five border checkpoints, but said the issue must first be considered by Thai security agencies including the military, police, Interior ministry and National Security Council.

The prime minister said he would approve the reopening of a checkpoint after a military assurance that it was safe to do so, but added that Thailand could not open all the border passes, as requested by Hun Sen, for security reasons.

Chuan said he assured Hun Sen that Thailand only supported the legitimate Cambodian government and told the Cambodian co-premier to contact him or the Foreign ministry, in future before making accusations against Thailand of supporting any other group.

A reliable source said yesterday that Tie Banh's entourage, after accompanying Hun Sen to Bangkok, were invited to continue their visit by Thai Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak.

The source said Tie Banh and Wichit were scheduled to meet yesterday night to discuss details of the massacre of Thais working for the BLP [expansion unknown] firm.

Tie Banh told reporters he would inform his Thai counterpart that the Khmer Rouge had killed the Thai workers as the area was under their control.

"We hope that after the discussion the Thai military will understand the Cambodian side better. We understand that previously our information was not clear and could lead to a misunderstanding, but we expect the Thai side to understand our position after our talks," Tie Banh said.

Krasae told reporters that it would be Thailand's decision whether or not to believe Cambodia's explanation, and it remains the right of Thailand to investigate the case independently.

Similarly, the Thai military has declined to confirm Cambodia's claim that the killings were carried out by guerrillas, saying it would not believe anything without hard evidence to back it up.

Tie Banh said that the Cambodian side is still investigating the case in order to bring the Khmer Rouge, which still resists the peace accord signed in Paris in 1991, to justice. He did not reveal which unit of the guerrillas is suspected of having carried out the killings.

To Produce Report

BK3103132695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thai and Cambodian military representatives are scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss the investigation report on the massacre of 22 Thai logging workers in Cambodia last year.

Cambodian Co-Defence Ministers Tie Banh and Tie Chamrat and the army chief of staff will present evidence explaining the investigation to the Thai Government.

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen did not submit an official report on the massacre in Preah Vihear province last November to Chuan Likphai during their meeting Wednesday.

But the Cambodian second prime minister said yesterday the killings were the work of the Khmer Rouge.

"The 22 Thai workers were in a jungle area, some of which is under Khmer Rouge control. Who would kill them, if not the Khmer Rouge?" he asked.

Gen Tie Banh said: "We have strong evidence in written form. No problem. We already have an understanding with the Thai side."

The two countries are scheduled at the first meeting of the Thai-Cambodian Commission in Bangkok from May 7-8 to discuss a plan to exchange military attaches in order to strengthen ties and cooperation.

Mr Hun Sen, in a speech to leading Thai businessmen yesterday, said the Khmer Rouge remained in the minds of all investors even though the guerrillas no longer represent a political or military threat to the Cambodian government.

Major defections from the Khmer Rouge and acts of banditry and senseless violence against Cambodian farmers show they are disintegrating.

"I don't want to speculate but believe it or not, I bet the Khmer Rouges have no future," said Mr Hun Sen.

He said there were only about 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas left in the jungles now compared to around 10,000 two years ago.

He also said Cambodia had emerged after two decades of war with a sense of urgency to rebuild its society and economy, but this effort would not succeed without the participation of a strong private sector.

"I am here to ask you to seriously evaluate the investment opportunities in Cambodia," he said.

Participation in Cambodia Reconstruction Renewed

BK0204123995 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has renewed her participation in the tripartite cooperation program among Japan, ASEAN, and Cambodia for another year. As the Japan-ASEAN-Cambodia tripartite cooperation program was concluded on 31 March this year, Thailand was requested by Japan and Cambodia for the extension of the assistance. With the cabinet's approval, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide personnel and expertise needed in helping Cambodia develop its country.

Japan, ASEAN countries, and Cambodia had initiated their tripartite cooperation to help the reconstruction of Cambodia with the emphasis on communities. The tripartite cooperation program is regarded as a model for Cambodia's rural development center to be set up.

Editorial: Hun Sen Visit Reveals New Attitude BK0204114195 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 1 Apr 95 p 3

[Editorial: "New Thai-Cambodian Chapter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen is regarded as a clear change in the Cambodian attitude toward Thailand. First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh attests to this assessment in his interview, in which he says his country is attempting to strengthen relations with its neighbor, particularly with the purpose of joining ASEAN in order to enhance Cambodia's future.

In light of the signing of the agreement between Thailand and Cambodia on investment protection and promotion, Hun Sen's visit must be classified a success. Thailand attaches great significance to the agreement, taking into account the lesson learned the hard way by Thai investors in the past two years at the hands of the Cambodian Government.

We view with great interest the new Cambodian attitude toward Thailand which was expressed during Hun Sen's visit. It is clear that Cambodia realizes that Thai investment is not to be overlooked, both in the potential of mutual benefit and Thailand's support for ASEAN membership. Hun Sen tries hard to court investment by the Thai agricultural sector despite its cautious nature.

The protection for Thai investors is most interesting. The Thais will be treated fairly and without prejudice. There will be negotiation within three months if a dispute arises in a business operation that is subject to expropriation or state takeover. If a settlement cannot be reached, the dispute can be arbitrated in court of the signatory country or an ad hoc international tribunal.

We are pleased that the anxious state of Thai-Cambodian relations is being remedied. The Thai Government and people wish to see the Cambodian people prosper and happy. The new Cambodian Government attitude is, therefore, a good thing. The pace of Thai investment in Cambodia, however, probably will not increase much; it will take time to regain confidence.

We suggest that Thai investment in Cambodia will hinge on the sincerity of the Cambodian Government, which is really more important than any signed agreement.

Thai Villager Killed by Burmese Troops

BK0304115595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Thai man was shot dead by Rangoon Government troops after returning from Burma's Tachilek District yesterday, further fuelling the

tense situation at the Thai-Burmese border in Mae Sai District of Chiang Rai Province.

Mae Sai District police identified the dead man as Mr Thawi Khamtankaeo, 38, from Chiang Saen District of this northern province.

The preliminary police investigation revealed that Thawi wanted to buy goods at the Tachilek market although the Burmese Government had closed the border since the attack by Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army early last month.

Police said that Thawi was spotted by a group of Burmese Government troops when he landed on the Tachilek's bank of the Mae Sai River. Thawi tried to escape the Burmese troops by crossing the river back to Thailand.

But he was shot in the back by a carbine rifle just as he reached the Thai side of the border, police said.

He collapsed on Mae Sai's bank and later succumbed to the fatal wound on his way to hospital.

As a result, Chiang Rai provincial governor Khamron Bunchoet, ordered Mae Sai police to investigate the incident in cooperation with Burmese police in Tachilek.

A letter protesting the shooting was sent to Tachilek and reported to higher agencies for further action against the Burmese Government, said Mr Khamron who inspected the border situation.

Despite the Burmese Government closing Tachilek, people could still cross between Mae Sai and Tachilek through other spots along the border.

However, yesterday's incident prompted Chiang Rai authorities to impose a complete ban today on any travel between the two sides, a source said.

Thawi was reportedly the first Thai to be killed in connection with the battle between the Burmese Government and Khun Sa's army.

Teams To Survey Disputed Border With Burma

BK3103084595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand and Burma agreed to start sending technical teams to survey Hill 491 in Chumphon, the Moei River and three islands in Ranong, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

They also agreed to repair border markers on the Mae Sai-Nam Ruak rivers damaged by water currents.

Mr Surin yesterday attended the second meeting of the Thai-Burmese Joint Border Committee [JBC] of which he is co-chairman with his Burmese counterpart, Nyunt Swe.

Both technical teams are expected to begin operations on Hill 491 and to repair markers on the Mae Sai-Nam Ruak rivers in Chiang Rai this year, a senior Foreign Ministry source said.

Disputes over Hill 491 in Chumphon's Tha Sae District erupted in December, 1992 after Burma sent troops to seize the strategic point.

Burmese soldiers later agreed to withdraw from Hill 491. Both sides have agreed to demarcate this border area as soon as possible.

The 492 markers in the Mae Sai-Nam Ruak rivers, meanwhile, were jointly erected by Thailand and Burma in 1991. Strong currents, however, have damaged the markers and now only 70 are in good condition.

In his opening speech, Mr Surin called on both countries to have confidence in settling any conflict before it develops into confrontation.

"I must admit that trying to achieve resolutions which are acceptable to either side on any border issues is not easy since both parties have to protect their national interests," Mr Surin said.

U Nyunt Swe said the two countries agreed at the first meeting of the JBC in Rangoon in February, 1993, to jointly survey and demarcate the entire common border.

"The task will be successful and results will benefit people of both countries," he said.

Mr Surin said both technical teams would also survey the Moei River to settle problems concerning changes of the river's course.

The Moei River, which is nearly 400 kilometres long, changed course during the rainy season last September. That caused Thailand to lose about 400 rai of its land.

During the meeting, the Thai side exchanged a historical document on three islands—Lam, Kan and Khinok—in the southern province of Ranong Province, with Burma.

The source said Burma has sent its document on the three islands to Thailand since 1985. Each country is claiming the three islands.

The JBC agreed both, ides would work together in settling the legal owner of the three islands.

Supreme Commander on Mekong Patrols, Lao Protests

BK0104132795 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Supreme Commander Gen Watthanachai Wutthisiri said yesterday that patrol boats of the Mekong Patrol Force do not intend to intrude on the Laotian side of the Mekong River.

The Laotian government recently protested against an alleged intrusion by Thailand's patrol force.

"We [the military] have good intentions, but they [the Laotians] are afraid of possible intrusions in their waters. We're trying to find a solution to the problem, on the basis of national interest. We will do whatever we can," Gen Wathtanachai said.

"Thailand and Laos are brothers... I think the problem [Laos' suspicion] will end if the Laotians think we have good intentions," he said.

However, he added that regular patrols along the river would continue as they are part of the government's policies.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces Information Office director Lt Gen Kraichit Sirisombat revealed yesterday that Thailand has "only" repatriated about 25 per cent of Laotian refugees.

SRV Releases Fishermen in 'Goodwill Gesture'

BK3103124495 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam's authorities have agreed to release 50 fishermen from six seized Thai trawlers without fining them. The Thai consular general in Ho Chi Minh City reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok that one condition set by the Vietnamese authorities was for the Thai Government to bear all expenses, including living expenses of those fishermen in Vietnam at U.S.\$50 each.

The Thai consul general in Ho Chi Minh City has already complied with Vietnam's request. He said Thailand would provide air tickets for the released fishermen to return on 7 April. The arrested fishermen will be released in Kien Giang, a remote district of Ho Chi Minh City.

The release was made at the request of the deputy foreign minister of Thailand, Mr Surin Phitsuwan, in a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart in southern Thailand recently. The Vietnamese authorities regarded the release of Thai fishermen as a goodwill gesture to join Thailand in celebrating the golden jubilee of His Majesty the King's reign.

Navy Test-Fires Guided Missile From Frigate

BK0204140195 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 1 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Navy Commander Admiral Prachet Siridet recently witnessed a firing demonstration of the guided missile C-801 from the HMS Kra Buri in the Gulf of Thailand off Prachuap Khirikhan Province coast. The missile accurately hit the target and destroyed it. The demonstration shows the readiness of the Navy and instills confidence of its personnel in the use of sophisticated weapons to safeguard national sovereignty at sea.

The guided missiles C-801 are installed on frigates of the Chao Phraya class built in China. These frigates consist of the HMS Bang Prakong, Kra Buri, and Sai Buri. They are armed with sophisticated weapons, making them capable of performing antiaircraft, surface battle, and antisubmarine operations.

The demonstration firing was directed by Rear Admiral Narong Yutthawong, commander of the 2d Frigate Force of the Naval Operations Department.

Vietnam

VNA Reports Visit of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew

Meets Deputy Prime Minister

BK3003150095 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA March 29-Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai today had a talk with Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew who arrived in Hanoi the same day on a visit. Mr. Phan Van Khai affirmed that a new development stage in the Vietnam-Singapore friendship and cooperation has been opened. He spoke highly of the support and assistance from Singapore and the senior minister himself to Vietnam, especially at a time when Vietnam is going to join ASEAN as a full member. The Vietnamese deputy prime minister said that experiences from other countries, including Singapore, are important to Vietnam's industrialization and modernization process. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew noted with pleasure Vietnam's achievements which he has witnessed during his third visit to Vietnam. He talked with the Vietnamese leader about his experiences in policy making and socio-economic management and development. These experiences, he hoped, would help Vietnam speed up its development and integration in the regional and global economy. Present at the talk were senior officials and businessmen from both countries.

Discusses Ties With Vo Van Kiet

BK3003193195 Hanoi VNA in English 1552 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Prime Minister [P.M.] Vo Van Kiet met with the visiting Singaporean senior minister, Lee Kuan Yew here on March 29.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed his pleasure at new steps of development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore in the recent years and highly valued the precious experiences which the Singaporean Government and the minister had shared with Vietnam. He said he believed that the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore would be further expanded and Singapore's practical experience would be beneficial to Vietnam in its national industrialization and modernization.

P.M. Kiet thanked the Singaporean Government and the senior minister himself for their positive support to Vietnam, especially at a time when Vietnam is going to join ASEAN as a full member.

(?Minister Yew) said that the Singaporean Government and he himself will continue sharing experience with Vietnam through cooperation with a view to assisting Vietnam in its industrialization and modernization.

Later, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife gave a dinner in honour of Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Meets Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh

BK3003193295 Hanoi VNA in English 1552 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—Party chief Do Muoi and State President Le Duc Anh received here today on separate occasions Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who is now here on a working visit.

Speaking to his guest, General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed Minister Lee Kuan Yew's valuable contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation between the two countries and Singapore's investment in Vietnam. Muoi said that Singapore's experience in economic development and national construction is helpful to Vietnam and expressed his wish that further efforts would be made for highly effective cooperation.

For his part, Minister Lee Kuan Yew expressed his pleasure at Vietnam's achievements in the process of socio-economic development. He affirmed the Singaporean Government's policy to continue developing and diversifying relations with Vietnam for the sake of peace, stability and cooperation and development in Southeast Asia.

Earlier, President Le Duc Anh received the visiting Singaporean senior minister, welcoming his visit and thanked him for his good will to help the Vietnamese Government and people in their national reconstruction. He informed Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Vietnam's efforts to build and improve the system of state laws and to carry out administrative reform which, he said would facilitate the cooperation between the two countries.

President Anh said he believed that the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Singapore would constantly be consolidated and developed.

Interior Minister's Meetings in Cuba Noted

BK3003142695 Hanoi VNA in English 1422 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—Cuban President Fidel Castro received in Havana on March 27 a delegation of the Vietnamese Ministry of the Interior led by Minister Bui Thien Ngo. During the reception, Minister Ngo conveyed the best regards from General Secretary Do Muoi and other Vietnamese leaders to President Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders. He affirmed the Vietnamese people's solidarity and strong supports to the Cuban people's national construction and defence. For his part, President Fidel Castro expressed his pleasure at the great achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their national construction and defence. President Castro and Minister Ngo exchanged views on the present situation of the two countries. Earlier, General Raul Castro, second secretary of the CPC [Communist Party of Cuba] Central Committee and minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces, received the Vietnamese guests. The delegation left Cuba yesterday, concluding an eight-day visit.

Vo Van Kiet on Assembly Session Discussions

BK3103152195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Mar 95

["Report" by Dinh Khai on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's meeting with the press during a break at the Ninth National Assembly's Seventh Session in Hanoi; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Dinh Khai] Could you, Prime Minister, comment on administrative reform?

[Vo Van Kiet] Now is not the time for us to speak about the difficulties encountered in carrying out administrative reform or in improving administrative procedures and about how troubled and inconvenient our administrative procedures are because these inconveniences are evident. How to carry out administrative reform is the most important thing. There is nothing secret in our policy except for the fact that our guidance for work implementation is usually not carried out carefully and thoroughly. The people are fully aware of this situation as it has been clearly reported by the press. From now on, we must review our guidance for work implementation to see if it is carried out carefully and thoroughly.

[Dinh Khai] Another matter, which is attracting great attention from the press is the law on state enterprises. It is also a subject of discussion at this seventh session. Prior to the session, there were many differing views reportedly arising among enterprise directors over this law. Speaking to the press on this subject, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said:

The size of a state enterprise can vary from small to large. An enterprise can develop into a trading group. To become a trading group, an enterprise must prove itself to have the necessary resources. An enterprise can develop into a national or multinational trading group depending on its capabilities. Our system will continue to allow small- and medium-size enterprises to exist. It is

most important that such enterprises learn to survive, develop, and remain competitive.

Asked by newsmen if the process of privatizing state enterprises is too slow, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet replied:

In fact, we have become more familiar with privatizing state enterprises, but as yet we have not had enough experience on this. Experiences obtained by other countries on this matter are numerous. Another matter is that the degree of uniformity in privatizing state enterprises is not high enough. We have started privatizing a number of enterprises where conditions permit. We have also faced some obstacles in the early stages. The reason is that the management of successful state enterprises tends to dislike the idea of being privatized. They want to see enterprises that have difficulties in their business be privatized first. However, investors think otherwise. They will never invest in high-risk enterprises ridden with difficulties. In fact, only enterprises with good business can attract foreign capital to carry out intensive and extensive investment. If they are doing well, state enterprises with good business will never favor the idea of being privatized. Meanwhile, they keep demanding that they be given priority, special, or preferential loans. They do not like doing risky business. For instance, although investment in the production of cement poses no risk at all, they dare not mobilize capital from the private sector and fail to make other people aware that investment in cement production is a sure success, as currently there is a growing demand for cement in our local market, and that if they invested in cement production, they would earn more profit than depositing their money in a bank. This year is also the first year in which we will renovate our accounting system and reorganize the liquidation of debts so as to correctly evaluate our assets. Only when investors know how successful the business of a share-holding enterprise is, will they invest their money in that enterprise. In state management functions, we must renovate the system of profitand-loss accounting of various enterprises if we are to precisely evaluate the profit and loss of an enterprise. As you know, a correct appraisal was impossible with our former accounting system.

In replying to a question raised by newsmen about the elimination of managing organs, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said:

It is our uniform policy to eliminate managing organs. What is important is that enterprises must be reorganized so each of them will have its own by-law and a official or an administrative council to manage its assets. Only when an enterprise is allowed to be self-governed will the higher-echelon management organs—such as relevant ministries and sectors—cease interfering in the enterprise's production and business activities and return to their former functions as a state management organ. State management duty is very important as it calls for supervising and inspecting enterprises to see if they are operating in accordance with the law.

As for measures aimed at containing inflation, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said the following things to the newsmen:

We will adopt the following two measures to deal with inflation:

- —First, as revenue collection shortfalls are still rather small, in this session, the National Assembly will decide on how to have various sectors and echelons actively collect taxes in accordance with policies without allowing any tax collection shortfalls to occur.
- —Second, if the revenue is not enough to ensure expenditure and to contain inflation, we will be compelled to restrict and cut our expenditure. Right now, we are preparing a measure to reduce expenditure, given the budget already approved by the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Issues Communique No. 3

BK3103154295 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Mar 95

["Communique No. 3" issued by the Office of the National Assembly in Hanoi on 31 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly spent the entire day on 31 March working in the Conference Hall.

In the morning, under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Nguyen Ha Phan, the National Assembly continued debate on the draft law on state enterprises.

On behalf of the law drafting committee, State Planning Commission Chairman Do Quoc San read an explanatory report and solicited the views of the deputies on the draft law on state enterprises.

Eleven deputies expressed their views: Huu Tho of Vinh Phu, Tran Minh Xuan of Khanh Hoa, Nguyen Ngoc Tran of An Giang, Pham Hung and Tran Dinh Phung of Hai Hung, Dinh Cong Hung of Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Duc Hoan of Quang Tri, Le Van Tam of Thanh Hoa, Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu of Tien Giang, Dam Van Nguy of Cao Bang, and Tran Van Nhan of Binh Dinh.

The deputies' views centered on the following issues:

- —The need to promulgate the law on state enterprises at an early date to create a legal basis for the operations of state enterprises.
- —The leading role of state enterprises in the national economy and the purpose of state management over state enterprises.
- —The necessity of delineating the functions; powers; responsibilities; and the relations among administrative councils, directors general and directors, and control committees.

- —The question of managing, maintaining, developing, and using state funds at state enterprises.
- —The right of collective workers to participate in the management of state enterprises.

In the afternoon, under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Dang Quan Thuy, the National Assembly discussed the draft law amending and supplementing a number of articles in the Law on Vietnamese Civil Aviation.

Mr. Bui Doanh Luu, minister of communications and transportation, read an explanatory report on a number of issues relating to the draft law amending and supplementing a number of articles in the Law on Vietnamese Civil Aviation.

Sixteen deputies aired their views: Dao Dinh Luyen of Thai Binh, Pham Quang Tu and Chu Pham Ngoc Son of Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Trong Chuyen of Ninh Binh, Trinh Tran of Ha Giang, Nguyen Quoc Thuoc of Nghe An, Chu Duy Kinh of Hanoi, Pham Van Tra of Haiphong, Trinh Hong Suong of Ha Tinh, Tang Van Luy of Ha Bac, Dang Khoi of Nam Ha, Pham Hung of Hai Hung, Dinh Trung of Binh Thuan, Luong Ngoc Toan of Thanh Hoa, Vo Nguyen Quang of Thua Thien Thue, and Nguyen Viet Dung of Ha Bac.

The views expressed by these deputies centered on the following issues:

- —The purpose of state management over the Vietnamese civil aviation sector.
- Organizing a state management organ for the Vietnamese civil aviation sector.
- —The functions and duties of the Airport Affairs Department.
- Organizing, exploiting, and providing services to ensure security and safety for the civil aviation sector.

The National Assembly will continue its session at the Conference Hall on 1 April 1995.

Communique No. 4 Issued

BK0104154095 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ninth National Assembly's Seventh Session issued today Communique No. 4 as follows:

On the morning of 1 April the National Assembly delegates worked in the Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh and heard reports from:

—Ton Gia Huyen, director general of Cadastral General Department, reporting on the implementation of the land law;

- —Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly's Law Committee, giving his committee's recommendations on the government report on the implementation of the land law;
- Tran Lum, minister for heavy industry, to deliver the government report on the draft law on mineral resources;
- —Vu Minh Mao, vice chairman of the National Assembly's Science, Technology, and Environment Committee, reading the dissertation of his committee on the draft mineral resources law;

In the afternoon, delegates met in groups to discuss the draft mineral resources law.

Seoul Paper Interviews Party General Secretary SK0304065795 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 3 Apr 95 p 5

[Written interview with Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communisty Party of Vietnam, on 24 March; edited by reporters Kim Chong-hyon and Kim Min-ku]

[FBIS Translated Text] [MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN] This year is the 20th anniversary of Vietnam's unification. Could you assess the process of Vietnam's revolution and its future master plan?

[Do Muoi] The victory of Vietnam's revolution is proven in the Vietnamese people's patriotism; their self-reliant and independent will; and their strong mental power, progressiveness, and creativity. I believe this was achieved through the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Based on the success in reform achieved up until now, from now to the year 2000 we will accelerate industrialization and emphasize the following goals.

First, based on economic and social stability, we will eradicate poverty and underdevelopment, enhance the people's standard of living, and exert efforts to defend the nation and maintain security. We will also satisfy all conditions to rapidly develop our country by the early 21st century.

We will concentrate efforts so that the gross domestic product (GDP) for the year 2000 will increase 2 to 2.5 times greater than it was in 1990. In particular, we plan to increase industrial growth, which maintained only an average of 13-15 percent annually in early 1990, to the 30-percent level by the year 2000.

[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN] What is the purpose of your upcoming visit to the ROK?

[Do Muoi] Relations between the ROK and Vietnam are developing rapidly. Through my visit, I plan to discuss mutual cooperative issues in economics, trade, science and technology, peace, security, and development in the Asia-Pacific region from an equal position; I hope to exchange opinions with high-ranking ROK Government

officials, including President Kim Yong-sam, on issues of interest within and without the area.

Another purpose is to study the experiences of the ROK's economy, which has made rapid progress.

[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN] When viewing Vietnam geopolitically, it plays an important role in the Asia-Pacific region. Please present the prospects for Vietnam's economic development.

[Do Muoi] Through reform over the past several years, the Vietnamese people achieved important results in economic and social sectors. We must not stop here, but continue to work to achieve greater results. We will work to lead Vietnam's economy toward a sound and upright direction to achieve high economic growth, accelerate reform, continue the promotion of industrialization and modernization, enhance the quality of our cultural and material life, build an abundant society, form a strong state, and establish a just and progressive society.

Even though there are many challenges and trials facing us in the future, we will by all means achieve these goals.

[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN] Investment in Vietnam by foreign countries is concentratedly being carried out by Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, the ROK, and Japan, but is being gradually expanded. What is your view on this and what are your plans to lure foreign investment?

[Do Muoi] The Vietnamese Government advocates the opening up policy and has adopted the incentive system to attract foreign investment. The Vietnamese Government has approved \$11 billion in foreign investment in over 1,000 projects. In fact, the average annual growth rate of foreign investment in Vietnam totaled 50 percent in recent years.

Large investments for key industries are also under way. The number of countries directly investing in Vietnam increased to 50. Foreign investment is important to Vietnam's economic development in terms of transferring techniques concerning capital, technology, and management.

I am aware that foreign investors face considerable difficulties in Vietnam. There is a Vietnamese proverb: "Everything is difficult until it becomes easy."

In fact, inducing foreign investment is a rather unfamiliar idea to us. We have developed cooperation with foreign investors based on the principle of reciprocity and equality. The government took various essential measures—including the relaxation of regulations, reform of administration, abolishment of investment barrier, and improvement of infrastructures—and presented the best conditions for foreign investors. We are seriously considering adopting a "one-door system" for foreigners to enable them to complete the procedures for obtaining approval for foreign investment projects at one place.

Land, manpower, and other pending problems are also being adjusted to actively induce foreign investment. The Vietnamese Government is preparing a new form of BOT [building, operation, and transfer] (transferring the land to the government after a certain period of operation) industrial complex and an advanced industrial zone.

It has been a consistent policy of our government to open the door, ease regulations, and actively promote investment so that foreign investors can do business in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese Government plans to give more investment opportunities to ROK investors and businessmen.

[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN] What are the details of the plan to promote ROK-Vietnam economic cooperation?

[Do Muoi] Vietnam needs to actively develop heavy industry, including the steel, shipbuilding, electronics, chemical, and construction fields. ROK companies are already showing an interest in these fields. I hope they will show more interest.

The advancement of small to medium ROK companies into Vietnam is no less important than that of large companies to the development of Vietnam's economy. The ROK has the potential to assist Vietnam in the fields of capital, advanced technology, management skills, administrative management, and training of technicians and skilled workers.

To reduce the trade surplus with Vietnam, we hope the ROK will increase its imports of Vietnamese products.

Considering that Vietnam is still a poor country, we hope the ROK Government will further promote direct investment in Vietnam as well as expand low-interest overseas development aid (ODA).

Do Muoi Addresses Journalists on Press Freedom BK0104105695 Hanoi VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW in English 13 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Nguyen Tri Dung: "Party Chief Defines Freedom of the Press"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam's leadership has always ensured freedom of the press, provided that the media follows certain guidelines, Communist Party Chief Do Muoi told Vietnamese journalists last week.

"Press freedom must be attached to discipline and order within the framework of the law. Journalists are free as long as they are virtuous and responsible to the community", Muoi said at the opening of sixth national meeting of the Association of Vietnamese Journalists in Hanoi.

"This is the essence of press freedom in our country," he added. The Association of Vietnamese Journalists, a

7,260-member organisation, groups some 330 delegates representing 376 mass media institutions throughout the country.

Party Secretary General Muoi, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh, Vice Premier Phan Van Khai and several other top party and government leaders attended the meeting.

"Why has our mass media developed so well during the last several years?" Muoi asked his audience. Press freedom, he declared, has played a key role in the media's success.

Muoi added that the country's Constitution, the Press Law and other legal documents issued so far have all clarified the rights of the Vietnamese people to the freedom of opinion.

"All journalists are allowed to freely practice their occupation within a legal framework.

All citizens have the freedom to express their opinions in the mass media on all issues including State policies and management. They can criticise the performances of the State, the Party, and of other mass organisations," Muoi said.

Muoi blamed what he called "bad forces" who have criticised Vietnam's press freedoms. Their claims are "fabrications," he said.

According to Muoi, Vietnamese law stipulates that mass media institutions act as vehicles for "the people's opinions."

"But to implement press freedoms, we have to answer the question: freedom of whom and freedom for whom?" he said.

"Our press freedom serves the interests of the whole nation, the whole people, the whole country and the new regime," Muoi told journalists. "Those who try to abuse press freedoms to create chaos and sabotage political stability are blocking the nation's advance and integration into the global democratic and progressive community," he said.

"Journalists while exercising press freedoms should also respect the freedom of others," Muoi said, insisting that press freedom must be attached to discipline and order.

"You have made a great leap toward both in quality and quantity of information." Muoi said. "Mass media has become a forum for the masses, opened up a democratic environment and strengthened ties with friends worldwide," Muoi said.

The Party leader highlighted the role played by the press to combat "social evils" like smuggling, corruption and prostitution.

"You have brought to light many cases which have been acted upon."

The national meeting of journalists concluded its meeting after approving a code for journalists' conduct and electing a new leadership for the organisation.

Government Issues Decree on Entry, Exit Rules BK3103132895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government recently issued Decree No. 24-CP on new entry and exit procedures aimed at strengthening and centralizing their management. The decree concretely stipulates the authority of the prime minister and the leaders of ministries, provinces, and cities in considering and making decisions on entry and exit applications by state cadres at various

levels, foreign guest delegations, and Vietnamese citizens

living abroad.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, and Finance and Vietnam's representative agencies in foreign countries should coordinate closely with each other in the modernization of the communication network to improve the management of entry and exit tasks while ensuring safety and timely service.

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